

Portfolio

£22,000 to be won

There is £22,000 available to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today - the weekly prize of £20,000, together with today's daily prize of £2,000. Yesterday's £2,000 prize was shared by ten winners. They were: Mr Alexis Jones of Birmingham, Mr Peter Harris of Coventry, Mr Allan Thomas of Leominster, Herefordshire, Mrs Ann Bryden of Witley, Surrey, Mr Dan Timms of Sevenoaks, Kent, Mrs Jeanette Pitt of Crediton, Devon, Mr Ronald Banks of Southfields, London, Mr John Giles of Orpington, Kent, Mrs Barbara Penny of Coombe Down, Bath and Mr Stephen Hill of Reading, Berks. Each received £200. Portfolio list, page 20; price changes, information service, back page.

French pick new foreign minister

M Roland Dumas, the French government spokesman and a confidant of President Mitterrand, was appointed Foreign Minister in a limited reshuffle last night. He succeeds Mr Claude Cheysson, who is returning to Brussels as an EEC Commissioner. The minister responsible for France's troubled territory of New Caledonia stays on. Page 4

Navy reprimand

The captain of the frigate HMS Jupiter which hit London Bridge last June received a "severe reprimand" at his court martial. Page 3

Astiz for trial

An Argentinean judge has ordered the arrest and trial of Navy Captain Alfredo Astiz in connection with the abduction of a Swedish woman. Page 5

Tutu demands

As anti-apartheid protests spread across America, President Reagan has received Bishop Desmond Tutu at the White House. The bishop gave him a list of demands. Page 4



Actor to appeal

Stacy Keach, the actor, who was last night refused bail by a High Court judge pending his appeal, set for the week after next, against a nine-month jail sentence for smuggling cocaine into Britain. His secretary was also refused bail and her appeal will be heard at the same time. Sentencing, page 3

Belgian jailed

A Belgian bar owner was jailed for three years for shooting dead a young visiting supporter of Tottenham Hotspur. But he could soon be released. Page 5

Licence drive

The BBC is planning a public campaign to win support from TV viewers for an increase in its licence fee. Back page

Student loans

Clearing banks are so opposed to loans for students to meet education costs that any such scheme would probably have to be government-funded. Page 2

£1m frozen

More than £1 million of investors' money has been frozen by the official receiver dealing with the affairs of the licensed deposit taker Eastcheap Investments. Family Money, page 25

Rugby changes

The Rugby Football Union has agreed to the introduction of a divisional championship and to the restructuring of the county game. Page 28

Leader page 7
Letters: On public spending, from Lord Barnett; neighbourhood watch, from Mr R C W Burdell; Church of England, from Rev Dr N Samuel.
Leading articles: Tax and poverty; Lome signing; President of the Royal Academy.
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Miss Ethel Mannin, Katy Antonius.

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NCB management crisis erupts as director resigns

Mr Ned Smith, director of industrial relations at the National Coal Board, resigned after several months of disagreement with the NCB.

The appointment was confirmed of Mr Michael Arnold, the senior partner in a City firm of accountants, to replace Mr Herbert Brewer as receiver for the NUM's funds.

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The long-simmering management crisis within the National Coal Board came to the surface last night when Mr Ned Smith, the director of industrial relations, resigned.

Mr Smith, aged 59, left his job after several months of sharp disagreements at the highest level about the conduct of the 39-week-old pit strike over colliery closures. He said: "I have had enough. I am going."

His resignation was accepted at a full meeting of the coal board, and it will take effect at the end of January. Mr Smith's departure comes at a difficult point in the conflict and is bound to be seized on as political capital by the National Union of Mineworkers.

The board's director-general of industrial relations has spent his entire working life in the coalmining industry and it is an open secret at the board's headquarters in London that he does not agree with the style of management introduced by Mr Ian MacGregor, the American chairman.

His place is almost certain to be taken by Mr Kevin Hunt, aged 47, the deputy industrial relations director, who is regarded as more sympathetic to the MacGregor strategy but who

also clashed sharply with the chairman in private.

Mr Smith's resignation from his £42,000-a-year post brings into the open the conflict within the board that so far has largely been concealed. The dispute is about how to deal with a strike that has closed two-thirds of the industry and threatens to go on well into next year.

He was sent on compulsory leave early in October and agreed to take more time off later, just as the coal board was negotiating a deal to avert the strike threatened by the pit deputies' union Nacods.

Those confrontations came after disagreements about the so-called "balance sheet mentality" behind the proposed colliery closures and the use of outside media and policy consultants to shape the board's strategy to end the strike.

Colleagues of Mr Smith argue privately that his resignation is just the tip of an iceberg of discontent at Hobart House, the board's head office in Victoria.

It came to light briefly when Mr Geoffrey Kirk, director of public relations, took early retirement a month ago and strongly criticized the chairman's management style.

"I suppose he has had a long career in the United States and

maybe he is unaccustomed to having people questioning his decisions and pointing out the consequences," said Mr Kirk.

Leaders of the two management unions in the industry, Nacods and the British Association of Colliery Management, are to meet the board next Tuesday, when fresh complaints about the "freezing out" of long-serving managers will be voiced.

At its meeting yesterday, the coal board recorded its gratitude to Mr Smith for his distinguished services to the industry in different capacities over many years and particularly during the present strike.

The shadow Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Stanley Orme, urged the Government last night to order the withdrawal of the pit closure programme in the wake of the dispute about the coal board's accounting procedures.

He said in Ipswich that a report by five leading accountants had shown the accounts system to be "a mine of misinformation". Pits described as uneconomic did not in fact lose money.

Mr Thatcher has described the accountants' report as misleading.

Support by Heffer for Scargill call

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Arthur Scargill's latest call, in the Labour Party's newspaper *Labour Weekly*, for the trade union and Labour movement to mobilize in support of the miners' strike, was yesterday endorsed by Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool Walton and former chairman of the party.

Mr Heffer said that in 1972, when five London dockers were imprisoned after defying the Industrial Relations Court, the Government led by Mr Edward Heath "divorced" the dockers from the rest of the country. The TUC General Council decided to call the first general strike since 1926.

Taking up Mr Scargill's statement that the decision of the court to appoint a receiver to run the affairs of the NUM was a threat to the Labour movement, Mr Heffer said it was agreed at a meeting between leaders of the NUM and Labour's National Executive Committee on Thursday that there should be stronger action to combat the actions of the courts.

High Court confirms receiver for NUM

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Working miners yesterday claimed to have made legal history when a High Court judge confirmed the appointment of a receiver for the funds of the National Union of Mineworkers. The decision, they argued, could have wide ramifications for the labour movement.

The receiver, Mr Michael Arnold, who is a senior partner in a large City firm and who replaced Mr Herbert Brewer, the Derbyshire solicitor, will have control over the union's funds and assets for several months and could continue for up to two years if the union refuses to purge its contempt of court.

Mr Justice Mervyn Davies, giving judgement in the case brought by 16 working miners, mainly from the Nottinghamshire area, rejected arguments put forward by Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, that the union was not acting on instructions from its national executive committee when they sent the £8.9 million funds to foreign banks.

The judge did that he did not

think there was any other course open to him than to confirm the receivership and the removal of Mr Scargill, Mr Michael McAuley, the union's vice-president, and Mr Peter Heathfield, the general secretary, as trustees of the funds. It was not clear last night whether the NUM intended to appeal against the decision.

Mr Colin Clarke, leader of the working miners, said after the hearing that it was not their intention to halt the union's operations. "All we want to do is stop this money galling all over the world so that our membership's funds will not be wasted in the future," he said.

Despite that statement, the combination of the operations of the receiver and the sequestrators will mean that the union will find it very difficult to continue normal business.

A decision on how long the receiver will remain at the NUM will depend on whether the union appeals, or not if it is successful in pressing for an expedited full trial of the issue.

Continued on back page, col 6

The Bhopal disaster

Carbide chief must flee India

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

Mr Warren Anderson, chairman of the Union Carbide Corporation, was arrested on arrival in Bhopal yesterday but released six hours later on a personal bond of 25,000 rupees (£2,000). "In all probability he will be asked to leave the country," according to an official of Madhya Pradesh state, "at the earliest".

Mr Anderson said Mr Anderson was not required for any investigation, and there was "never intention of persecuting him".

The arrest of Mr Anderson and seven other company officials, including the chairman, Mr Keshub Mahandra,

and managing director, Mr U. P. Gokhale, of the Indian subsidiary, was made at the insistence of the State government which controls law and order.

The Central Government intervened, however, to have Mr Anderson released. The US Embassy was also closely in touch with New Delhi. Mr Mahandra and Mr Gokhale are still in custody, after Mr Anderson was flown to Delhi yesterday in a Central Government aircraft.

Mr Anderson said last night: "We were taken to a guesthouse and very politely told we were under house arrest

and had to stay there. We were not able to contact the technical staff who came to see."

A magistrate came in and I was given five charges including criminal negligence. I was subsequently allowed to leave on bail and taken on a government plane here (Delhi), he said.

Commenting on his arrest, he said: "The thing is, we have work to do. But from their point of view we have to be kept out. My immediate concern is to get the people affected immediate disaster relief."

There was at one time a proposal to hand him over to

Continued on back page, col 3



Happier days: Mr Neil Beeston, one of the Britons held by the hijackers on the Kuwaiti plane at Tehran, photographed with his wife, Joyce.

Britain tells Iran of concern at hijack

By Our Foreign Staff

Britain has been in touch with Iran to draw attention to its "serious concern" over the killing of hostages from the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner at Tehran airport.

The hijackers have shot dead at least five hostages, although reports on the number have varied. Two Britons, including the pilot, Harry Clark and Neil Beeston, a Kuwaiti Airlines maintenance manager, are among people still on the plane.

A Foreign Office spokesman declined to respond to suggestions that the latest statement - the second this week - indicated that Britain was "not happy" at the way the Iranians were handling the incident.

The statement said: "We regret the tragic loss of innocent lives yesterday. We are drawing the attention of the Iranian Government to our serious concern."

The Kuwaiti Airways Airbus was hijacked on Tuesday. The hijackers are demanding the release of terrorists jailed in Kuwait for bomb blasts.

In Washington, President Reagan criticized Iran, but said he had no evidence of Iranian collaboration. "I have to say, however, that they have not been as helpful as they could be in this situation," he added, without elaborating.

He could not confirm the reported killing of two US officials aboard the plane. The State Department had said it appeared two employees of the US Agency for International Development had been murdered.

The hijackers said the dead Americans were Charles Freud and William Stanford, according to Iran's news agency. Iran rejected as "irrelevant" what it described as US charges that Tehran was sympathetic with the hijackers.

The family of Mr Beeston were yesterday desperately hoping for his release.

His wife Joyce was being comforted by her two daughters and son at their home in Witley, Surrey. Mr Beeston's stepdaughter Kim, who is a British Airways stewardess, said: "My mum knows that he will be coping with the situation very well and is confident that he is going to be alright. The terrorists have agreed to release some more hostages and we are just hoping that will be among them."

The hijackers have said they had killed four passengers, but reports by witnesses, Tehran radio and officials at the airport put the number killed since the plane landed at five.

The hijackers listed three Kuwaiti officials they said would be among their next victims.

Debenhams to open on Sundays for Christmas shoppers

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

On the two Sundays before Christmas Debenhams is to open from 10am to 5pm all department stores in England and Wales, with the exception of Harvey Nichols and Harrods, the toy outlet.

The move, which runs the risk of prosecution under the present trading laws, that the Auld committee recently recommended be scrapped, is likely to bring a rash of Sunday openings by other chains.

The Shopworkers' Union has protested to Debenhams about its decision.

In a letter yesterday to the Debenhams chairman, Mr R. C. Thornton, the union's national officer, Mr Terry Sullivan, reminded him that the Home Secretary had stated that as long as the 1950 Shops Act remained law, shopkeepers were expected to obey it or face prosecution if they opened on Sundays.

Mr Sullivan said: "Over the past few months there have been many calls on trade unionists to obey the law and I would concur that the law should be upheld, but I cannot understand how any group of people, whether they be employers or workers, can select which law they wish to uphold."

Slowest pre-Christmas trading last year, until custom began building up in the past week, has brought pressure on retailers to consider Sunday opening.

The maximum fine is £1,000.

but some local authorities have not taken Sunday opening stores to court and fines have often been as low as £100 or £200.

After the Auld committee recommendations, fewer local authorities may act. But even with the highest fine a large department commercially store would find two busy Sunday's trading commercially worthwhile.

Mr Peter Hindley, Debenhams director of store operations, said last night: "The Sunday trading law as it stands is quite ridiculous and we are anticipating the law will be changed. Obviously if local authorities do take us to court we will accept the consequences and pay the fines."

The Debenhams move is expected to bring similar Sunday openings by other department store groups, and chains such as Woolworth, British Home Stores and multiple grocers are also under pressure to open.

Department store chains such as House of Fraser and Sear's Holdings' Lewis as well as Debenhams, already open their Scottish outlets on Sundays because of less restrictive trading regulations there.

At Sear's, whose stores also include Selfridges in London, Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith, chief executive and deputy chairman, said that the group would now consider opening in England and Wales.

Reagan hint of arms budget cut

Washington (Reuters) - President Reagan said yesterday the Defence Department was not exempt from spending cuts in his drive to reduce massive US budget deficits but no final decisions have been made.

"That's included," he told a press conference when asked if he was examining the Pentagon budget for possible cuts. "We know that's (defence spending) important. We know it's important, across-the-board, to see that everyone participates in trying to achieve this (spending) freeze."

The President said he would discuss arms spending with Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, next week. But a number of key members of Congress have warned Mr Reagan that his spending cut package will fail unless the military also accepts lower spending levels.

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Party tells Chinese Marx's ideas are outdated

Peking (Reuters, AP) - China said yesterday that many of the ideas of Marx and Lenin were outdated and accused ideology specialists in the leadership of delaying progress.

The official *People's Daily* said Mr Deng Xiaoping's reforms were being obstructed by some people who stuck rigidly to the teachings of Marx and Lenin instead of studying economic realities.

In a front-page leading article, the paper told them to look at facts and be quiet for the next three to five years. "It is already 101 years since Marx died, his works were written more than a century ago," it said.

"Some concepts were right at the time and afterwards the situation changed greatly. There

were many things that Marx, Engels and Lenin did not experience or come in contact with."

"One cannot take a dogmatic attitude towards Marxism... to take some theories out of Marx's works in order to limit the richness of contemporary life can only impede the development of history," the newspaper said.

Western diplomats said the article seemed to bear out rumours among Chinese officials that Mr Deng had banned all political campaigns that might impede China's economic development during the next five years.

One diplomat said the article was also a criticism of Mr Deng Lihou, the party's propaganda chief, who last year supported a



Mr Deng Xiaoping: Reforms being obstructed, campaign against "spiritual pollution" from abroad that was used by some leftists to attack current policies. Mr Deng Xiaoping is famous

for his pragmatic approach to economics, summed up by his saying that it does not matter whether a cat is black or white so long as it catches rats. The party has already argued against dogmatism.

The declaration was the latest sign of what foreign observers have called the party's slow, methodical reinterpretation of basic orthodox Communist principles.

"When they say things like this, they are clearly trying to find a theoretical justification for what they are doing," said another Western diplomat. "It goes beyond what they've said before in terms of directness."

Mr Deng's attempts to remould China's economy include encouraging private enterprise, wooing foreign invest-

ment and promoting competition. Mr Deng, who emerged as senior leader two years after the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976, has reversed most of Mao's radical exhortations.

The material quality of rural Chinese life has sharply increased under Mr Deng's direction, with many peasants multiplying their incomes, building new homes and buying television sets, washing machines, new clothes and other items.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong newspaper *Ming Pao* reported Mr Hu Yaobang, the party chief, as saying the Communist Party will vote 47 new members on to the Central Committee to avert a succession crisis in its ageing leadership.

THE TIMES

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The wealth of beauty and the beasts in Tanzania

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The pick from Santa's sack and the panto theatres

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Changing her tune

Rock star Linda Ronstadt sings Mimi in La Bohème and wins points for courage

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They're after your money

How the City will compete for the growing number of small investors

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Monday

Hard facts on the hard sell

Millions of pounds from public funds are now being spent on advertising



A fight insight

Glasses will be sold over the counter from Monday but will standards fall?

ملتان سے الیصل

Polytechnic chief quits after Front uproar

By Our Education Correspondent

Dr David MacDowell, director of the North London Polytechnic, which has been at the centre of a storm over a National Front student Mr Patrick Harrington, resigned yesterday.

Dr MacDowell, aged 54, said that he wanted to pursue his interests in classical and oriental history, numismatics and epigraphy.

It is understood, however, that his decision may have been influenced by pressure from the Inner London Education Authority.

It is believed that the authority tried to persuade Dr MacDowell to make a complaint against Mr Harrington for remarks he made in a radio interview which, it alleges, may have been racist.

Dr MacDowell took over the directorship of the polytechnic from Dr Terence Miller almost five years ago. The past six months have been dominated by the Harrington affair, with demonstrations, occupations and scuffles with the police.

An application for Mr Harrington to be taught privately by polytechnic staff was adjourned yesterday in the High Court.



Dr MacDowell: Months of pressure.

Prisoners hold inmate captive

Prison officials were last night trying to persuade two prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs in west London, to release a third man held in a barricaded cell in the prison's B wing.

None of the three is high security prisoner. The siege began yesterday morning when a prisoner armed with a piece of glass held a fellow inmate captive.

Tighter strike rule sought

Leaders of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are proposing a rule change which would prevent local committees authorizing strikes which could land the union in court.

The change, which will have to be before a spring revision committee in the spring, comes after court action by Austin Rover. A strike was declared unlawful under this year's Trade Union Act.

Card campaign

More than 20,000 Christmas cards opposing the Soviet deployment of nuclear weapons in Eastern Europe will be posted this weekend during a series of demonstrations organized by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Hattersley wants jobs before tax cuts

By Richard Evans Lobby Reporter

Unemployment could be cut by 1.4-1.6 million, if money earmarked by the Government for tax cuts next spring was invested in jobs, Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader and the shadow Chancellor, said last night.

Taking full advantage of growing doubts within the Conservative Party about the Government's tax-cutting strategy,

Banks' doubts on student loans may force state funding

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Lacy Hodges

The big clearing banks have such grave doubts about providing loans to students to help them pay for university education that any loan scheme proposed by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, would probably have to be government-funded.

The banks were asked through the Committee of London Clearing Bankers, the trade association for clearing banks, as recently as last summer whether they would establish a loan scheme for students. This was the second time they had been sounded out.

Almost without exception they said they were worried that some students would be unable to repay the loans, especially as many graduates are unable to find jobs after they leave university. They asked whether parents might be able to guarantee loans to students.

It is understood that the Department of Education and Science has made it clear that a loan scheme would have to cover all students given a place at university or polytechnic and not simply those whom the banks considered credit-worthy.

When student loans were first considered seriously by the department in 1980, the clearing banks took the view that a loan scheme would be acceptable only if a reasonably commercial rate of interest was charged, the repayment period was not too long and if there were satisfactory arrangements for repayment. Some banks also wanted a government guarantee to cover repayments.

The Treasury, however, would not allow student loans to be guaranteed by the Government because the sum of money guaranteeing repayments would still appear on the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement. That would defeat the whole object of a scheme funded by the banks.

In the next few days Sir Keith will ask for a situation paper from his civil servants outlining the options for a student loans

scheme as the first step in his inquiry into the subject.

The proposal most likely to find favour is for a mixed loans/grants scheme of the kind which was killed off before the last general election by damper members of Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet. The idea then was that half the maintenance grant would be paid to students in the form of a government loan.

The rest of the grant would have continued to be means tested and the age at which students are considered no longer dependent on their parents would have been reduced from 25 to 21. The Treasury grudgingly accepted the scheme, although it would have cost about £25 million a year initially and would not have brought any money into the Exchequer until the 1990s.

Mr Phil Woolas, president of the National Union of Students, said yesterday that students would continue to protest against increased parental contributions to student grants (the Press Association reports).

Edinburgh University has launched an appeal for funds from industry, commerce, public agencies and trusts to secure cash for specific projects.

Pay talks appeal

Sir John Wordie, chairman of the Burnham Committee on teachers' pay, refused yesterday to allow the National Union of Teachers to kill off the working party which is looking at a new salary structure for the profession.

However, the fact that the NUT is using its dominant position among teachers' unions to end talks on a salary structure will mean that the working party - set up by unions and management - will be dormant.

Both the local authority employers and other unions have asked the NUT to reconsider its decision to pull out of talks.

Tight check for IRA funerals

From Richard Ford Belfast

A big security operation will be mounted today to prevent the Provisional IRA staging paramilitary funerals for two gunmen shot dead in the grounds of a psychiatric hospital near Londonderry by an undercover Army team.

As the police prepared their tactics Provisional Sinn Féin alleged that William Fleming, aged 19, and Danny O'Leary, aged 22, shot on their way to kill a part-time member of the security forces, had each been hit at least 30 times. The Royal Ulster Constabulary had no comment to make on the claim.

In the House of Commons, Mr John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, demanded a Government statement on the shooting.

Sheffield's town hall strike ends

By Peter Davenport

A three-month dispute that crippled the operation of Sheffield Town Hall is over.

A meeting of 1,700 Nalgo members rejected the advice of their local officials and accepted the "final offer" from the Labour-controlled council to bring the strike to an end.

The stoppage began over plans for the introduction of computerized new technology in town hall offices and developed into a severe embarrassment for the city's left-wing council.

The housing department, where all 650 office staff walked out, was worst affected. Rents and rates were not collected, housing repairs went undone and families in poor accommodation could not be rehoused.



King Hussein of Jordan meeting senior pupils when he and Queen Noor visited Harrow, his old school, for Churchill Songs yesterday.

The miners' strike

Court to rule on benefit cut

A striking miner was given permission yesterday by a High Court judge to challenge the Government's right to cut supplementary benefit paid to strikers' families.

If the action succeeds it could lead to claims worth more than £50 million against the Government by thousands of miners' families who have been paid reduced benefit.

Mr Justice McNeill granted the Nottinghamshire miner, Mr Nicholas Bland, of Albert Road, Retford, permission to launch his case in the High Court. The judge recommended an early hearing.

The basis of the claim is that the deduction of £16 from the weekly benefit paid to strikers' families is illegal.

The deduction was introduced in 1980 on the assumption that anyone called out on strike qualifies for strike pay from his union. The National Union of Mineworkers does not give its members strike pay.

Originally the amount deducted was £15, but this was raised to £16 last month. A striker with a wife but no children now gets £6.45 supplementary benefit. A married man with two children aged under 11 gets £25.65.

Mr Bland is challenging the legality of instructions issued to officials at the Department of Health and Social Security by his chief adjudication officer. He is seeking a court order quashing the instructions and a declaration that adjudicating

officers are not entitled to deduct the money.

His case is backed by the Child Poverty Action Group, which has consistently opposed the benefit cut. The group's lawyers are acting for Mr Bland, whose action will be brought against Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services.

If Mr Bland's action succeeds, the Government could try to avoid the claims for all the deducted benefit money by seeking to rush through retrospective legislation, redefining the law in a way that could not be challenged.

But such moves are rare, and it would mean that the whole question of benefit cuts would have to be debated again.

We are not divided, Kinnock tells pitmen

From Tim Jones, Oakdale, Gwent

Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, denied yesterday that there was any split between the party and the miners. "We are as one in putting the case for coal across, and that is how it will go on", he said.

After a tough question-and-answer session 200 miners from the Oakdale pit in his constituency, Islwyn, gave him a standing ovation.

Mr Kinnock told them bluntly that Mr Tony Benn's call for a general strike was "not a feasible option and is a distraction from the main issue of the case for coal".

He added, in a reference to picket line violence: "Violence is Maggie's game. It detracts from the main issue."

The letter columns of *Pravda*, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper, contained a letter yesterday from a British miner complaining about police brutality to miners in south Nottinghamshire (Our Moscow Correspondent writes).

The letter, from Mr Brian Roy, a Barnsley miner, said that he and other striking miners at the working men's club in Barnsley had decided to write to "comrades in other countries", to explain the current dispute. He also complained that coverage of the strike by the British media was ignorant and prejudiced.

The number of striking miners returning to work for the first time dropped again yesterday, 32 by mid-morning, compared with 90 on Friday (the Press Association reports).

The week's total was 590, not counting yesterday's night shift figure, a decrease from last week's 7,159.

Two striking miners accused of beating up a police dog handler and stamping on his head are to face a new trial.

Judge Greenwood ordered a retrial yesterday after a jury at Chelmsford Crown Court, Essex, failed to reach a verdict after four and a half hours.

Two Kent miners, Terence French, aged 34, and Christopher Tazey, aged 20, both of Deal, both denied assaulting Police Constable Ian Learmonth, and causing him grievous or actual bodily harm at Wivenhoe, Essex, last May.

Planners have given approval to a huge new open-cast coal site, covering 229 acres, with one million tonnes of coal reserves, near the village of Bermuda, Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

The coal board said yesterday: "The site will eventually provide 75 jobs and part of the cost will be allocated later for industrial development. It is expected that work will take place over a period of six years."

Working miners and pickets came together yesterday for the funeral of the first fatality in the south Staffordshire coalfield since the start of the strike.

They attended a service at Wolverhampton Crematorium for a working miner, Mr Trevor Prince, aged 48, who was killed underground when two trucks crushed him on November 29.

Receiver with a great advantage

By Ian Griffiths

Mr Michael Arnold, the receiver of the National Union of Mineworkers, typifies the new breed of accountant, now dominant in the profession.

He sees himself as a combination of company doctor and business manager, drawing on his extensive experience in insolvency work, management consultancy, and general accounting.

At 49 he is already a senior partner with Arthur Young McClelland Moores and is the director of its insolvency services. He has spent most of his working life with the firm and was admitted to partnership 18 years ago.

In his role as receiver he will have a great advantage over his predecessor because he will be able to draw on the resources of one of the world's biggest accountancy firms. Arthur Young has offices throughout the world and a comprehensive representation in Europe, including offices in Luxembourg and Dublin where NUM assets are known to be.

The advice on local legal problems and technical procedures which each office will be able to provide should ease Mr Arnold's task.

He will also be able to take advantage of the connections and relationships built up by his colleagues within the local business communities.

One of the reasons why Mr Arnold was chosen is that his firm has no conflict of interest: it does not work for the NUM or the coal board.

Southgate by-election

Anxious Tories plan to pull out the stops

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Galvanized by the loss last June of the "safe" parliamentary seat of Portsmouth South, the Conservative defenders of the north London seat of Enfield, Southgate will be fully extended until the by-election polling booths close on Thursday night.

Tory MPs, candidates, councillors and experienced canvassers have been ordered to Southgate today to revisit the doubtfuls and try to make sure of the apparently faithful.

They will rest by tradition tomorrow, not without anxiety, and resume hammer and tongs on Monday. By all rational measurements, the Conservatives cannot lose Southgate. It has always been theirs. They habitually take three votes out of five at general elections. They have an experienced full-time agent and an efficient organization competing with an enthusiastic but makeshift Liberal one and a barely visible Labour one.

They have also an unusually competent candidate in Mr Michael Portillo, who learned his trade in the Conservative Research department and is spoken of in radiant terms by the several ministers for whom he has worked.

But by-elections are determined more and more by the irrational of immeasurable, and in particular by the voters' taste for giving the party in power a shock.

Conservative canvass cards show that thousands of habitual Tory voters will stay at home. The desecrations seem sure to make Mr Portillo's margin of victory look meagre, but not to

defeat him, unless they become defectors en masse to the Liberal Alliance candidate, Mr Tim Slack.

There was no sign of this happening up to yesterday. Mr Slack, aged 50, a former headmaster, has campaigned with energy since his adoption as the Liberal candidate. Starting in second place, with 21 per cent of the vote at the general election, the Liberals have clearly been eating fast into Labour's 18 per cent, and Mr Slack's repeated claim that only he can beat the Tory was widely accepted on Labour doorstep this week.

Labour's Mr Peter Hamid, aged 52, an Enfield councillor who was born in Trinidad, looks like being the victim of the familiar third party squeeze. Said to report, there were also signs of white Labour voters deserting him because he is black.

Mr Slack's problem is to persuade voters, in a seat which has never before seen a seriously contested election, that he is available and worth serious thought. To keep that hurdle, the Liberals also plan a maximum effort starting today.

At Portsmouth South, although the seat was very different and the Alliance candidate well known and liked, the decisive movement of opinion came only in the last 48 hours. Not till the eve of poll, if then, will Southgate have been won or lost.

Southgate, Enfield, is a ward of Enfield, Middlesex. It has 10,000 people, 15,700 votes.

More Irish women get UK abortion

From Richard Ford Belfast

The number of women travelling from the Irish Republic to Britain for abortions in first quarter of this year was a record 1,049. That figure was exceeded only by women from Spain.

The true figure for the republic is believed to be even larger. It is thought that Irish women give false addresses to abortion agencies in Britain because of embarrassment and fear of being identified.

A 1983 constitutional amendment forbids abortion in the republic, and it is also illegal in Northern Ireland.

Figures from the office of Population Censuses and Surveys in London show that 145 of the Irish women were under 20, 763 between 20 and 34 and 141 over 35.

Public spending on farms likely to rise by £100m

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Public spending on farm support this financial year is expected to be about £100 million more than last year, despite imposed cuts in milk production, according to the latest figures released by the Ministry of Agriculture.

But capital grants to farmers, which are a contentious issue because they are often used to finance environmentally destructive projects, are expected to be down from £220 million to £205 million.

Health chief quits over 'meddling'

By Nicholas Timmins Social Services Correspondent

The Conservative chairman of a health authority has resigned over interference by ministers and the Department of Health in the running of district health authorities.

Mr Arnold Silvester, chairman of the East Yorkshire Health Authority since 1981, said ministers' insistence on approving every detail of general manager appointments, in ordering health authorities not to stipulate NHS pay rates when putting catering and laundry services out to tender and in setting manpower targets showed "a complete lack of trust in district chairmen's ability to do the job".

Claims that under the last NHS reorganization health authorities were to be allowed to get on with the job were just "pie in the sky", he said.

Rock musician choked to death after drugs

Wellis Kelly, the drummer with the group Merloaf, was not a drug user and not even slightly dependent on drugs, members of the band told a Westminster inquest yesterday.

The jury of four men and four women returned a verdict of misadventure. Mr Kelly, aged 35, from Long Beach, New York, was found dead on October 28 by Paul Jacobs, another member of the band. He was slumped over railings outside a house in Cavendish Avenue, St John's Wood, London.

Dr Iain West, a pathologist, said Mr Kelly died from the inhalation of vomit after opiate overdose. There were no injection marks and it was likely that Mr Kelly had snuffed or snorted a mixture of cocaine and heroin.

Conran plan for shopan outrage, council says

Camden Borough Council, London, condemned as an outrage yesterday a plan by Sir Terence Conran to give Heal's his company's shop in Tottenham Court Road and a grade 2 listed building, a design change.

His proposals were accepted by the GLC in March, but Mr Camden has rejected the plan to replace rare curved glass windows and to make the external colonnade part of the shop.

Camden said, the changes would involve alterations to the detriment of the building and street scene.

The borough's principal planning officer, Mr John Peckover, told the public inquiry into the proposed changes that the curved windows were an integral and rare part of a listed building. The inquiry sat yesterday in Heal's boardroom.

Steel's son charged with disorderly behaviour

William Steel, aged 20, the son of Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader, was in police custody last night, pending an appearance before Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, central London, today.

Mr Steel, an actor, of Beatty House, Dolphin Square, Pimlico, who faces a charge of disorderly behaviour after a fight on Thursday night at Victoria station, failed to appear at the court yesterday.

Thomas O'Connor, aged 18, unemployed, of St George's Drive, Belgrave, admitted a similar charge, but was bailed.

The Liberal leader, attending

a student rally at Edinburgh University, issued a statement "David Steel learnt only this afternoon of the summons to his son to appear in court this morning. He telephoned his son at work. He was due in court this morning and he has gone immediately to the police to make arrangements."

COMMONS

The City of Sheffield, which only recently tried to turn history on its head by claiming that Robin Hood came from there, had only to be patient. Mr Andrew Stewart (Sheffield, C) said in opening in the Commons a debate on tourism's contribution to employment. They would have a winner in the near future by showing tourists the twentieth century castle of the last union dictator.

The expanding tourist industry would find its growth in the country's regions and cities. No region was better placed than the East Midlands in whose economy tourism already played an important part. It meant £360 million spent annually by visitors on accommodation and entertainment in restaurants, shops and garages. It was no idle boast to say that there was something for everyone in the five counties of the region. Many local initiatives were taking place, one in particular in Nottinghamshire celebrating the centenary of the author, D. H. Lawrence.

Sherwood Forest went hand in hand with Nottingham like Robin and Marion, Torville and Dean. There was the major oak under which the devoted couple spent their romantic moments. It was now gazed upon by one million people annually.

mind turned to the barbaric sheriff who did so much to persecute the innocent peasants of that time. Maybe they were seeing something of these far-gone days on the picket line during the present coal dispute, these acts of violence condoned and encouraged by the equally hated and self-styled sheriff of Sheffield.

The most vital factor in ensuring a successful tourist industry in the area was fun. The Robin Hood theme park would capture the imagination of all ages and offer the choice of active participation or exciting spectatorship. We propose to build for the East Midlands (the said) a reputation for being the best tourist region in Britain.

Miss Janet Footes (Plymouth, Devon, C) said she was an adviser to the English Tourist Board which had estimated that about 1,500,000 people were involved in the tourist industry. It was not a candle for a peripheral industry, it was essential to the economic well being of the country.

A fixed Channel link - a tunnel, bridge or both - would create employment opportunities in building it and vastly increase the opportunities for tourism by making Britain very much more accessible to the Continent.

Mr David Bryan (Birmingham, Yardley, C) said it was essential to have a Secretary of State for tourism with a separate department and Cabinet rank. At the moment, tourism came under at least six different ministers: Trade and

Industry, Environment, Transport, and the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Offices. Such diffusion was not in the best interests of the tourist sector.

At a modest estimate, tourism generated 30,000 new jobs a year. It was Britain's second largest currency earner after North Sea oil and would shortly overtake that.

There would soon be 15 million North American visitors coming to Britain every year bringing in £2,000 million a year in foreign exchange. In August 1984 there was an increase of 17 per cent in overseas visitors compared with August 1983.

Schemes to improve the infrastructure were badly needed. Sir John Wells (Maidstone, C) said London hotels were far too expensive while hotels 40 or 50 miles out of London were nearly as good and a great deal cheaper. I urge visitors (he added) to sleep out of London and see some of our local beauties. (Laughter.)



Stewart, Hated and self-styled sheriff of Sheffield

good value for money than they were only a few years ago.

As a consequence of its impoverishment through high unemployment, this was now a shabby, scruffy, dirtier country to visit. The Government was in grave danger of making this situation worse. In future there would be less spent on some of these services. The only way, apart from the unlikely prospect of its reversing its overall policies, the Government could remedy this situation was by taking some action itself to promote tourism directly.

Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham, C) said they should not be so gloomy. Tourism in Britain remained

buoyant. This country really did pull the crowds.

Mr Robert Hicks (Cornwall South-East, C) said the Government and the CBI had recognised the important role of tourism. The immediate task was to persuade ministers of the need for some very modest financial pump-priming.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thames South, C) said tourism was the slumbering giant of British industry and a change of attitude was needed in Government, Parliament, industry and among the public.

The time has come (he added) to shift government responsibility from the Department of Trade and Industry to the Department of Employment. The most important fight in Britain today is the fight for jobs and tourism is one of the few fields where this fight is being won.

This industry is crying out for a new training structure. British tourism is still bedevilled to a large extent by the Fawley Towers dimension of service.

Mr Clement Freud (North East Cambridgeshire, L) said not only a different government attitude to tourism was needed but they needed to change the attitude of the average Briton to the average tourist.

People complained that they could not get on a bus because it was full of tourists or could not go Christmas shopping because the shops were full of tourists without acknowledging the enormous financial benefit that accrued to Britain as a result of tourism.

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US actor who smuggled drugs into Britain is jailed for nine months

From Our Correspondent, Reading

Stacy Keach, the American film and television actor, was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment yesterday after he admitted smuggling £4,500 of cocaine into Britain.

Keach, aged 43, who gave his address as Malibu, California, who is known to British television viewers for his portrayal of Mickey Spillane's private detective, Mike Hammer, pleaded guilty, with his secretary, Deborah Steele, aged 41, to smuggling jointly 36.7 grams of the drug at Heathrow airport, London, on April 3 this year.

Mr Henry Green, for the prosecution, told Reading Crown Court that Keach and his secretary were arrested in the green channel at the airport's terminal two after arriving from France. They had travelled from Marseille.

Mr Green said a customs officer searched a canvas suitcase belonging to Keach and inside a toilet bag found a shaving foam can. "The officer pressed the top of the can. Some shaving cream came out and after a few moments it stopped."

"He was asked what was in the can and he said he did not know," Mr Green said. The customs man punctured the aerosol and could see it contained a white powder.

Mr Keach said he was "wrapped in cellophane. There was also a small envelope. In total the can contained nearly 34 grams of cocaine."

A small amount of cocaine was found inside a handkerchief in Steele's jeans pocket and the drug was also found in two small phials in a string bag belonging to Keach.

Keach said in evidence that he had been taking cocaine regularly since January.

He said: "It was taken as a means of trying to alleviate exhaustion, trying to maintain one's concentration. One of the diabolical things about cocaine is that it gives you a false sense of security and gives you a momentary sense of energy which is immediately followed by depression."

"I can't deny the deep humiliation and embarrassment for what's happened. I am terribly sorry for what has happened, not that I was caught, but that I have caused my family and business colleagues a tremendous sense of anything but pride."

"I only hope that I can make amends by, as a public person, taking a public posture in trying to help other people in rehabilitation."

Mr Richard Du Cann, QC, defending Keach, said that Keach's marriage had broken up partly as a result of his arrest. He added: "Mr Keach has made a fool of himself. He accepts that he has put himself and others at risk, at real commercial risk. He is wholly to blame. He does not seek to shrink from that."

"He has broken all his links with the drug. He has not touched it from the moment he was stopped. It has been an immensely difficult time for him."

Keach had bought the cocaine in America a fortnight before his arrest for \$3,500. Mr Du Cann said. "He had bought the cocaine because he believed he needed it. There was no question of him having it for social use or social distribution."

Mr Christopher Sumner, for Steele, said she had been Keach's secretary for 15 years and had been subjected to "similar pressures". He said she was a "woman of hitherto good character" who had the cocaine for her own use.

Jailing Keach for nine months and Steele for three months, Judge Murchie said they had committed a grave offence.

He also ordered Keach to pay £500 prosecution costs.



Charity painting: David Poole with his portrait of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. A limited edition of 400 prints of the portrait is to be sold for charity at £300 each (obtainable from Order of St John, 1 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1).

Reprimand for captain whose ship hit bridge

Commander Colin Hamilton, captain of the frigate Jupiter which collided with London bridge last June, last night received a "severe reprimand" at his court martial.

But he was praised as being "as near to a natural leader as one could wish" by Rear-Admiral David Bathurst, who said he had a bright future.

Captain Peter Murison praised Commander Hamilton's work on HMS Leeds Castle during the Falklands conflict, saying he enjoyed ship handling and was good at it.

Commander Hamilton had admitted at the hearing in Portsmouth that he failed to take expert advice to secure tugs.

He had denied that he had failed to plan his departure properly but the court found this proved. Two other allegations of negligence, which Commander Hamilton had denied, had not been proved, the court found.

The collision, which occurred as the 2,900-ton Jupiter was leaving the Pool of London after a goodwill visit, caused £25,000 of damage to London Bridge.

Commander Rod Lees, for the defence, said that for a commander to strand his ship was always traumatic. "To do so in the heart of London must be even more shattering."

With hindsight, the 40-year-old Commander, who took over command of the frigate in August last year, regretted his decision not to secure tugs when he made the manoeuvre.

Rear-Admiral Bathurst, Flag Officer Second Flotilla, told the court martial that Commander Hamilton had a strong presence.

Now could be the time to buy a house

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Now could be a good time for house buyers, the Halifax Building Society says in its latest house price index. It argues that, although December is not a popular month for house-hunting, conditions in the market may be turning in the buyer's favour.

"The normal seasonal lull means that in many areas there is a wide range of properties to choose from. Most lenders seem to have a good supply of mortgage funds. House prices will continue to rise, income and employment prospects look somewhat better, and interest rate trends are favourable."

The Halifax predicts an increase of 9 per cent to 10 per cent in house prices next year, about twice the expected general inflation rate, and if as expected interest rates continue to fall mortgage rates could fall into single figures by the end of next year.

"This would mean a cost of borrowing (after tax relief) for most people of no more than 7 per cent, which is less than the rate of increase of house prices."

House prices increased by 8.7 per cent in the 12 months to last month, according to the index, while the rise in the latest three months was 2.5 per cent. In the same three-month period new property prices increased by 0.8 per cent, and first-time-buyers prices by 2.5 per cent in the first 11 months of this year.

There have been marked variations in price rises in different regions during the past year; the increase was, for instance, 11.4 per cent in the South-east, 13.8 per cent in Greater London, 5 per cent in Wales, and 5.8 per cent in the North-west.

Children's home man remanded

Nigel Tyson, aged 31, unemployed and of no fixed address, was remanded in custody yesterday by Highbury Magistrate's Court, North London, until January 11.

He is charged with possessing a 12-bore shotgun with intent to endanger life at the National Children's Home, Highbury Park, on December 4 and 5 and unlawfully and injuriously imprisoning Kim Fung Wong, and detaining her for 22½ hours.

Lakes tree plan may be dropped

The Forestry Commission said yesterday that it was now unlikely to pursue a proposal to plant trees in a further area of Dummerdale, in the Lake District National Park, after several objections.

The site that it was considering buying is next to the Grassgill area, where a similar scheme two years ago received many objections and permission was granted only to plant a reduced area.

Plane seized

Sheikh Bin Birjis al-Muraidhi, a Saudi Arabian businessman, has had his private Boeing 707 seized by Luton airport. The aircraft was abandoned on the runway more than two years ago and has run up a £35,000 parking bill.

Whale on show

The 30ft skeleton of the first Humberback whale to be stranded in the British Isles, found near Aberthaw, South Glamorgan, goes on public display today in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

£100 bill for fish killed by chlorine

Mr Brian Brookes blamed the Anglian Water Authority yesterday for the death of seven of his goldfish. He said his "foul-smelling water" had killed them and sent the authority a bill for £100 compensation.

Mr Brookes, a school caretaker at Leicester Street, Norwich, said that he was furious when the fish died after he had changed the water in his 15-gallon tank.

He tried to revive them three times with more water from the taps, but still they died. He said: "I was particularly upset at losing my 11-year-old goldfish Sandy which belonged to my father."

Yesterday Mr Brookes was collecting signatures for a petition calling for an independent inquiry into the water supply. He said he was concerned for the health of his family.

Mr Ken Rowe, divisional operations manager for Anglian Water, said that tests had shown that the water at Mr Brookes's house had a relatively high level of chlorine because of the cold weather; the water was safe.

He added: "We are not here to provide water for fish. Fish don't like chlorine. We have to put chlorine in as a sterilization agent."

Inheritance for man who shot parents

Charles Ireland, aged 22, who was convicted of killing his parents on their family farm in North Yorkshire, is to collect a large sum from their estate after a long inheritance battle.

A joint statement yesterday by solicitors for Ireland and his elderly grandparents, Mr Jack Knights and his wife Mary, said that they had reached agreed terms after the sale of Ings Farm, near Malton, for £490,000.

Part of the agreement is that neither side discloses the settlement sum, or makes any further comment on the shooting of Charles Ireland, senior, aged 72, and his wife, Joan, aged 36, two years ago.

Their son walked free from York Crown Court in March last year after a jury acquitted him of murder and convicted him of manslaughter on the grounds of provocation and diminished responsibility.

Mr Ireland, who now works on another Yorkshire farm, had made two High Court applications to benefit from the legacy. The Knights had said that they were not concerned about the money, but wanted to deny allegations that their daughter had treated him like a slave.

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Salmon 'facing extinction'

By Ronald Faux

The wild Scottish salmon is under threat of extinction, according to the Salmon Conservancy, a newly formed group of businessmen, land-owners and anglers.

A £210 million industry and 30,000 jobs would be lost with the salmon, the group claims.

The alarm was given in Edinburgh by its chairman Mr Douglas Hume who said that in the 26 principal salmon rivers in Scotland, providing 1,100 miles of fishing, reported catches had fallen by 30 per cent during the past five years.

Laws that protected the salmon were "archaic and inappropriate", and the traditional poaching measure of one for the pot belonged to a past age. Hundreds of tons of fish were now thought to be lost to organized gangs.

The salmon was under attack in its native rivers, at river mouths, and in the North Atlantic feeding grounds, where fishing was increasing.

The group has called for a new approach to save the species, which, it points out, has made a valuable contribution to tourism.

The most recent survey shows Scottish tourism benefiting by £140 million a year, with a further £70 million in Britain generally. Although salmon anglers make up less than 2 per cent of the annual 13 million visitors to Scotland, they account for more than 20 per cent of the earnings.

The group wants licensing of nets and dealers, inspectors with power to enforce quotas and control illegal fishing, and net catch quotas that do not penalize the commercial fisherman, but are realistic.

The secretary of the Salmon Conservancy, Miss Harriet Comfort, said yesterday that the group had been formed because of frustration at the failure by other bodies in the salmon business to get effective measures into force.

The group's particular target would be the Northumberland drift net fishery, which was covered by English law although it profoundly affected Scottish salmon.

Coroner told about mother's suspicion

A woman told an inquest in Birmingham yesterday that she believed foul play was responsible for the death of her adopted son aged 15.

Mark Billington was found dead 10 weeks after he disappeared from his home in Gilbertstone Avenue, Yardley, Birmingham. He was hanging from a tree in woods at Somers Lane, Meriden, about seven miles away.

The police started to look for him after his disappearance on September 1 and searched neighbouring parks and woodland. The search failed to find any trace of the boy's bicycle or of a large kite he was thought to have been carrying.

Mrs Winifred Billington told the inquest that the family heard that the bicycle had been seen leaning against a hedge after he disappeared and that partly hidden pieces of the kite were later found at the bottom of the family's garden, a day after the garden was searched by the police with dogs.

She told the coroner, Dr Richard Whittington, that the boy had loved the bicycle he built himself and felt it was part of him.

A pathologist, Dr Peter Acland, said there were no signs on the body of a struggle or injuries except those caused by the rope.

The hearing continues today.

Extra Gatwick runway sought

Expansion at Heathrow and Gatwick airports rather than at Stansted should be allowed to grow as a regional airport specializing in charter flights in the way Luton airport does, rather than as a rival to Heathrow and Gatwick.

It wants the Government to allow a second runway at Gatwick and lift the restriction to 275,000 flights a year at Heathrow, instead of authorising Stansted as London's third airport, as it is expected to do next year.

Lord Garmock, chairman of the Air Transport Users' Committee, told a meeting of the committee in London that Stansted should be allowed to grow as a regional airport specializing in charter flights in the way Luton airport does, rather than as a rival to Heathrow and Gatwick.

Present policy, aimed at preventing a second runway at Gatwick, made no sense, he said, because a second terminal was being built there without the runway capacity to fill. Gatwick was the world's busiest one-runway airport, and runway capacity would be exceeded without the second terminal now being built.

The committee criticized the recent government carve-up of routes between British Airways and British Caledonian as being potentially damaging to the air traveller. Instead of a swap between the two big airlines, the Government should have excluded British Airways from regional airports apart from its successful Shuttle service, and allowed smaller airlines to build new hubs from places such as Glasgow, Manchester and Birmingham.

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£44,000 for Edward VIII sovereign

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A proof gold sovereign bearing a portrait of Edward VIII and the date 1937 was auctioned at Spink's yesterday for £44,000.

It is part of the preparations for special proof issues for collectors, which were not minted because of the abdication in December 1936. Although dated 1937, it was clearly struck the year before. It may be the only Edward VIII sovereign to have escaped into private hands.

It was consigned for sale by Professor Robert Gibson, whose important collection of sovereigns and half-sovereigns made £165,430 yesterday.

At Christie's the collection of Annamese ceramics, essentially local imitation of Chinese ceramics produced across South-east Asia, and formed by Mr and Mrs Robert Picus during the last 15 years, realized £385,000 with a 26 per cent unsold. The collection has been on the market for a while.

The biggest buyer yesterday was Mr Seijiro Matsuo, who has a private museum. He bought most of the top pieces, including a huge fourteenth century blue and white dragon jar, which made the top price at £108,000 (estimates £60,000 to £90,000).

US drugs chief warns Britain of cocaine risk

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

An American drug expert has warned Britain not to concentrate all its efforts on combating the spread of heroin, ignoring the risks from cocaine, as the United States has done until recently.

The warning came from Mr Frances Mullen, director of the Drug Enforcement Agency, before he left London yesterday after discussions with the police and Home Office officials on drugs.

One result of the visit was an offer by Mr Mullen of the services of his agents to countries where British police lack contacts.

Mr Mullen said that the US had been "caught" by ignoring cocaine and assuming that the drug was not dangerous. He said: "Five years ago people were talking about cocaine being benign. Now there are an estimated one million Americans in need of professional help because of cocaine problems."

The US heroin market had stabilized to about 1.5 million addicts and there were signs that the use of cannabis was slowing down, Mr Mullen said.

Last week figures issued by customs and excise for the financial year ending in March showed record seizures of 62.7 kilos of cocaine in Britain. The year before the figure was 24.3 kilos. In the US the seizures have been far higher.

Most of Thamesdown is the Wilshire town of Swindon. The rest is a collection of villages and farms round it. But milk quotas and country bus fares are not the only concerns of Thamesdown electors. Under the Government's latest municipal laws this is also rate-capping country.

It would be wrong to assume that rate-capping is aimed only at the inner cities. The curbs on Sheffield and Liverpool will also be imposed on Castle Eton and Hinton Parva.

There is another respect in which Thamesdown seems an odd target.

One of the motives for rate-capping is that businessmen are deterred from opening offices and factories in areas with exorbitantly high rates. Ministers claim one reason for the high unemployment rate in deprived urban areas is that companies are driven away by high rates.

Two admit part in smuggling arms on ship

Two of the five men arrested on the gunrunning trawler the Marita Ann from which arms destined for the IRA were seized, admitted yesterday that they were taking part in arms smuggling. A verdict is expected on Tuesday.

Marin Ferris, aged 34, a former member of Sinn Féin's national executive, and John Patrick Crawley, aged 27, an ex-US Marine, were giving sworn evidence at Dublin's anti-terrorist special criminal court.

All five had pleaded not guilty.

The group's particular target would be the Northumberland drift net fishery, which was covered by English law although it profoundly affected Scottish salmon.

The group's particular target would be the Northumberland drift net fishery, which was covered by English law although it profoundly affected Scottish salmon.

Why the axe fell on Hinton Parva

The traveller passing westward through the Vale of White Horse in Oxfordshire soon enters a short tract of flat countryside. In the middle there is a sign saying "Borough of Thamesdown."

Like so many of the bland composite names invented in the local government reorganization of the 1970s, it tries to tell you where you are, but fails.

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Rate-capping: 3

Why the axe fell on Hinton Parva

If rate-capping is meant to benefit the inner city, why is it also being aimed at some of the most attractive villages of the Upper Thames? In the last of three articles Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent, explains how rate-capping will affect the countryside.

The amount paid by businesses in Swindon is less than that paid in towns where the councils have not been chosen for rate-capping. Why, then, "cap" Swindon when high-tech firms are ready to occupy its new sites in the heart of the "western corridor" between Heathrow airport and the Bristol Channel?

Thamesdown's Labour-led council is not militant. It has rejected the tactic of some London councils of defying rate-capping by refusing to levy a rate next year, although it remains broadly committed to a policy of "not-compliance".

The Government said in the summer that it had put Thamesdown council on the first list for "capping" because its rates were high compared with those of similar councils.

The council retorted that the Government's method of choosing authorities did not take account of Thamesdown's special circumstances.

The town's rapid expansion has been largely financed by the council and private sector, not through a government-ap-

pointed development corporation. The ratepayers of Thamesdown are therefore paying for the fact that Swindon had never been classed as a new town.

There is evidence that the Government appreciates Thamesdown's difficulties. Mr Simon Coombs, Conservative MP for Swindon, has suggested that the Labour councillors in Thamesdown might learn something to their advantage if they invoked the appeals machinery available.

But there is a price to be paid for an appeal. If a council does so, ministers are legally entitled to exercise detailed control of a council's services, even to the extent of ordering property to be sold. Labour-led councils on the "capping list" have boycotted the appeals machinery because it would invite a measure of extra control by the Government.

There is a suspicion in Swindon, denied in Whitehall, that Thamesdown was placed on the rate-capping list only to be plucked off it. Thamesdown

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The Bhopal disaster

Carbide can pay all claims

From Bailey Morris Washington

Union Carbide Corporation will be able to cover all claims for compensation and damages arising from the leak of poison gas in Bhopal without threatening its financial stability, the company said yesterday.

In a statement designed to calm the fears of nervous financial markets, company officials denied any intention of seeking protection under federal bankruptcy laws, as had been rumoured on Wall Street.

Union Carbide shares have fallen sharply since Monday, dropping in value by \$10.13 a share for an overall decline in market value of about \$444 million. Union Carbide closed at \$38.75 a share on Thursday after another selling spree resulted in a loss of \$5.75 a share.

Company officials tried to reassure the public as legal experts estimated the value of what is expected to be a staggering volume of claims.

Lawsuits are expected on behalf of the Indian Government, the relatives of the 2,000 killed, those injured as a result of the leak, and possibly from those exposed to the gas but who have not yet developed injuries.

Mr Melvin Belli, an attorney who specializes in personal injury cases, said he had already been contacted by relatives of the injured in what is con-

Britain gives urgent medical aid

Medical equipment costing £180,000 is being sent by the British Government to India next week to help treat victims of the Bhopal chemical disaster. It is in response to a request for aid from the British High Commission in Delhi.

Mr Malcolm Kerr Muir, a leading British eye surgeon, is flying out to India today to help the victims of the disaster. He is accompanied by the director of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, Mr Alan Johns. The society has launched an appeal to provide emergency help and rehabilitate those permanently blinded in the disaster.

considered the worst industrial accident in history. He planned to file a suit in San Francisco on their behalf.

The potential scope of the lawsuits has triggered rumours that Union Carbide, America's 37th largest company, would be forced into bankruptcy. But company officials say insurance and other financial resources are adequate.

"Although the Bhopal tragedy is without precedent, Union Carbide is not threatened considering the insurance and other financial resources available," the company said.

Officials declined to name the insurance company.

Meanwhile, both Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Services Inc said they were reviewing the company's debt rating for possible downgrading. The loss of life and health on a scale unprecedented for an industrial accident makes it impossible to even attempt to quantify the liability, nonetheless, a critical factor will be whether punitive damages, not covered by insurance, will be assessed," Standard & Poor said.

Legal experts said a critical factor will be whether the damages claims are heard in the United States, where awards are large, or in India, where they are generally much lower.

● LONDON: Union Carbide has umbrella liability insurance covering all its factories worldwide (Richard Thomson writes). Arranged by insurance brokers Marsh & McLennan, it is believed to amount to a minimum of \$200 million placed entirely in the US insurance market, although some of it has been reinsured with Lloyd's of London.

New York brokers Merrill Lynch said yesterday that Royal Insurance were the lead insurers in Union Carbide's worldwide liability cover. Royal said it could be called on to pay out anything between £400,000 and £5.4 million depending on the size of claims, though much of it had been reinsured. Commer-

cial Union is also believed to have some exposure to the risk.

The Bhopal plant is also separately insured for a liabilities risk of up to rupees 25 million (£2 million) with the National Insurance Company of India, a state-owned Indian insurer. The risk has been reinsured at Lloyd's.

A spokesman for Bowring, the broker responsible for arranging the reinsurance, said yesterday: "This cover will be a mere drop in the ocean as far as the claims are concerned." The Indian insurers have already made an offer of \$500 for each person who has died and \$100 for each injured victim.

As the company faces the likelihood of thousands of compensation claims, Moody's, the credit rating service, said yesterday it was reviewing Union Carbide's debt ratings, resulting in a possible downgrading. The tragedy "could create a material financial liability for Carbide, given the magnitude of the disaster." At present Union Carbide's debt carries high quality A-ratings from Moody's. But the agency said enough information on potential claims would be available in a few months to reassess the rating.

Legal disputes over responsibility for the disaster and the size of compensation are likely to drag on for years. The first case against the company was filed on Thursday by the State government of Madhya Pradesh



First Family addition: Mr Reagan and his wife Nancy with a puppy given them when the President signed a proclamation calling attention to birth defects. The dog was a gift from Kristen Ellis, aged 6, who appears on a March of Dimes poster appeal for disabled children.

Dumas takes over as Foreign Minister in French reshuffle

From Diana Geddes, Paris

M Roland Dumas, French Minister for European Affairs and Government spokesman, was appointed Foreign Minister yesterday in a limited Government reshuffle which had been widely predicted, but which came a few days earlier than expected.

M Dumas, who is 62, succeeds M Claude Cheysson who is leaving the post he has held since the Socialists came to power in 1981 to return to Brussels as EEC commissioner. M Dumas will accompany President Mitterrand on his seven-day African trip which begins today.

Mme Catherine Lalumière, aged 40, has been named from her post as Minister for Consumer Affairs to the Foreign Ministry, and given responsibility for European affairs. But the Cabinet post formerly held by M Dumas has been downgraded to that of junior minister, as it was before M Dumas took over in December 1983.

Mme Georgette Dufour, aged 41, takes over M Dumas's other post as Government spokesman, adding it to her present function as Minister for Solidarity and Social Affairs. While M Henri Emmanuelli, aged 39, adds Mme Lalumière's responsibilities for consumer affairs to his present post as Budget Minister.

Contrary to some rumours, M Georges Lemoine, Minister for France's Overseas Departments and Territories and as such responsible for New Caledonia, is not being moved.

M Jack Lang, Minister for Culture, who was greatly disappointed to see his Ministry downgraded in the last reshuffle in July, now resumes the rank of a full Cabinet minister.

The only real surprise, however, is the appointment of M Gilbert Trigano, aged 64, managing director of the Club Méditerranée since 1963, to a special post with responsibility

for new professional and vocational training.

Two comments are always made about M Dumas: that he is one of President Mitterrand's closest friends and confidants, and as such speaks with his master's voice; and that he possesses formidable powers of persuasion and charm.

M Dumas has known M Mitterrand for nearly 30 years. He joined M Mitterrand's small centrist UDSR party in the mid 1950s.

Jealous colleagues complain that they cannot go to see the President without bumping into M Dumas who is referred to behind his back as *Monsieur le Père Dufour*. But the closeness of his relationship with M Mitterrand is a tremendous advantage in talks with foreigners, who feel he speaks with the authority of his President.

Although M Dumas has had little ministerial experience, having been appointed Minister for European Affairs only a year ago, to which he added the functions of official Government spokesman last June, he brings to his new post all the analytical negotiating and oratorical skills of his lifelong brilliant career as a lawyer.

He has been involved in many of the most famous cases in recent French legal history.

Archbishop Denis Hurley, president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, said on Thursday that an interview had been sought before publication with the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange. But he had been unable to find time for it.

M Dumas: Speaks with his master's voice.

Tutu gives Reagan list of demands

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

As anti-apartheid protests continued to spread across the country, President Reagan yesterday met Bishop Desmond Tutu, the Anglican Bishop-designate of Johannesburg and winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

During their 40-minute White House meeting, Bishop Tutu presented the President with a long list of black demands, including an amnesty for political prisoners, an ending of black resettlement and the abandonment of the homeland programme.

The Bishop also said US policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa had not worked and that it had worsened the situation of blacks in South Africa.

President Reagan, who took the unusual step of holding an impromptu press conference after the meeting, disagreed with Bishop Tutu.

"We have made sizable progress there in expressing our repugnance to apartheid. We are going to continue with that policy." But he added that his Administration would look at some of the suggestions Bishop Tutu had made.

It was the President's first meeting with a black South African opposition leader. Their talks also attended by senior members of the Administration, underlined growing concern at the pressure which has been building up for the past two weeks for the US to adopt a tougher stance towards Pretoria.

The most visible aspect of this pressure has been the demonstrations outside the South African Embassy here which led to the arrest of more than 60 liberal Democratic congressmen and civil rights leaders. These protests have spread to South African consulates and embassies in New York, Boston, Los Angeles and other cities.

The move which most concerned the Reagan Administration was a letter 35 conservative Republican congressmen sent to Mr Brand Fourie, the South African Ambassador, on Wednesday, saying they would support diplomatic and economic sanctions unless Pretoria took steps to end apartheid.

The strong warning by these congressmen, who are generally Reagan allies, signalled a significant movement on Capitol Hill for a more aggressive policy on South Africa.

A further sign of growing congressional restiveness came when Senator Richard Lugar (Republican, Indiana) - incoming chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee - wrote to President Reagan this week, urging him to take a stronger stand against South Africa's racial policies and expressing concern about the detention of 21 black labour leaders.

The warnings are also likely to give impetus to the divestment movement which has been gathering momentum in recent months.

Bomb near barracks kills officer in Spain

Madrid - A Spanish Army second lieutenant was killed and three soldiers and a woman passer-by seriously injured when three army vehicles ran into a booby-trap near Bilbao yesterday, (Richard Wigg writes).

A bomb went off in a car, parked near the main army barracks in the region, as the soldiers, in a bus in the convoy, were going off duty.

Troops sent into Jammu

Delhi (Reuters) - Troops were ordered into Jammu, capital of India's sensitive Jammu and Kashmir state, yesterday as the nation was hit by new election violence with the murder of a second parliamentary candidate.

Jammu has suffered violence since a member of the fundamentalist Hindu Shiv Sena organization was killed by a Sikh. An independent candidate for an Andhra Pradesh seat was murdered in a family feud.

Naudé job

Johannesburg - Dr Beyer Naudé, the Dutch Reformed Church priest who spent seven years as a "banned" person because of his outspoken opposition to apartheid, yesterday agreed to serve as secretary-general of the South African Council of Churches for two years. He will assume office on February 1.

Airliner crash

Jacksonville, Florida (AP) - A small twin-engine plane of the Provincetown-Boston Airlines crashed soon after takeoff, killing all 13 people on board. The Federal Aviation Administration temporarily cancelled the airline's operating licence last month, accusing it of safety violations.

Santiago blast

Santiago (Reuters) - A bomb exploded on the Chilean capital's underground railway yesterday, injuring four people and disrupting trains. The blast followed a hand-grenade attack on a paramilitary police post in which one policeman died and another was seriously wounded.

Atoll anger

Wellington (AP) - The New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, issued a strong protest against what he said were two more nuclear tests at Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific this week. One explosion was estimated at about 70 kilotons, he said.

Dealer jailed

Lagos (Reuters) - A Lagos tribunal jailed a Swiss businessman, Nicholas Johannes, yesterday for 15 years for a black market currency deal involving \$2.5 million. A British banker, Ian Wild, aged 32, charged with Johannes, was freed due to lack of evidence.

Sex film protest

Berne (AP) - Several members of the Swiss Federal Parliament have condemned as "inopportune" a decision by the French-language television network to show the sexually explicit film *Enimamelle* on New Year's Eve.

Wreck decision

Brussels (AP) - Belgium will salvage the wreck of the Mont Loutre, the French cargo ship which sank in the North Sea last August with a lightly radioactive cargo, but will sue those responsible for the sinking later, the Government said.

Actress jailed

Istanbul (Reuters) - The Pakistani film actress Aasma Ahmed and two companions have been jailed for life by a civilian court for smuggling heroin into Turkey.

Informer dies

Palermo (Reuters) - Leonards Vitale, a Mafia member who turned police informer, died in hospital yesterday, five days after being shot by gunmen outside his home.

Rock 'n' riot

Auckland (Reuters) - Cars were burnt and shops looted in Auckland as hundreds of New Zealand youths fought with police after a riot broke out at a rock concert in a city square.

Peking warning

Peking (AP) - The Chinese Communist Party said yesterday that some officials are abusing economic reforms for private gain and gave a warning that indulgers in such "new unhealthy tendencies" face severe punishment.

Brandy alibi

Johannesburg (AP) - Police Major Petrus van Vuuren denied in court here that he was drunk when his squad car hit a lamppost. His blood contained too much alcohol he said, because a passer-by tried to revive him with brandy. The case was adjourned until next month.

Soft-spoken head of a chemical giant



Mr Warren Anderson: Unassuming and warm.

Mr Warren Anderson, the Union Carbide chairman, is an unassuming, outgoing and warm person who has been a company man nearly all his working life.

Respectable and silver haired, Mr Anderson, aged 63, speaks softly and generally shuns the public limelight. He spends most of his time working in executive suites.

Mr Anderson has been largely responsible for redesigning the structure of the conglomerate. He became chairman and chief executive officer of the third largest US chemical company in 1982.

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Born in Brooklyn on November 29, 1921 of Swedish parents, Mr Anderson joined Union Carbide as a chemical salesman in 1945, when the company's headquarters were in New York. They have now moved to Danbury, Connecticut, about 60 miles to the North.

He was named President in 1977 and with the then chairman, Mr William Sneath, was responsible for big changes in the company. Over five years, it topped off 30 business segments, from production of brain scanners to shrimp fishing. Instead, it began

concentrating on its basic consumer and industrial products - chemicals, plastics and batteries.

Recently, Union Carbide has been concentrating on consumer products such as plastic garbage bags, industrial gases and technology services.

Mr Anderson served in the US Navy during 1943-45 and is also a member of the American Bar Association. He lives quietly with his wife in a suburb not far from the corporation's new headquarters in Danbury.

Journalists detained in Uganda

By Richard Dowden

At least eight journalists are being detained in Uganda according to Amnesty International and one is reported to have been tortured.

The eight, from three newspapers, were served with detention orders in November. Anthony Ssekweyama, the editor of *Munmasi* (The Friend), which supports the opposition Democratic Party, was detained after receiving a summons on four counts of sedition. Mr Paulo Semegere, the party's leader and Mr Ojok-Mulizi, its chief whip, are also to appear in court on December 17, but have not been detained.

It is understood they are to be charged in connection with a report carried in the October 31 edition, alleging the Chief Justice had colluded with the police and the executive in an attempt to have all leading members of the Democratic Party imprisoned. Three other *Munmasi* journalists, Andrew Mukindwa, John Baptist Kyume and David Kasujja, have also been detained.

Mr Drake Ssekkebe, editor of *The Star*, an English language daily, and Mr Sam Katweire, the chief sub-editor, were arrested at the newspaper's offices in Kampala on November 9 and are being held without charge.

Mr Sam Kiwanuka and Mr Francis Kanyelamba, two journalists from *The Pilot*, a Roman Catholic-supported daily, were rearrested after being acquitted of "false and malicious publication" last month.

Israel rejects Jordan's all-party conference

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Israel's Defence Minister yesterday called on King Hussein of Jordan to help "expand the peace" in the Middle East but to do so through bilateral negotiations.

Mr Yitzhak Rabin rejected Jordan's proposal for a conference of all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as a "formula which will lead nowhere."

The history of Arab-Israeli relations since 1949 showed that nothing could be achieved without talks conducted on a bilateral basis, he told the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

If there had been a breakthrough in the region during the past 11 years it had been because the United States had been allowed to lead the peace process, without the Soviet Union, and to use Egypt and Israel as the two cornerstones.

Another reason was that they had resolved to move gradually, first towards disengagement and only then towards a peace settlement.

Jordan was now the only available partner to join the peace process, Mr Rabin went on, aware as he must have been that King Hussein himself was only a mile or so away being on a private visit in London.

If the Jordanians were ready to enter negotiations with Egypt, Israel and the US, the Israeli Government had made it clear that it was ready to start talks without any prior conditions.

"We are committed to discuss with Jordan any pro-

Sri Lanka names crisis supremo

From Our Correspondent Colombo

The Secretary of the Sri Lanka Cabinet, Mr G. V. P. Samarasinghe, was yesterday appointed by a special Cabinet meeting to the post of commissioner-general of the emergency civil administration proposed by the Prime Minister.

The proposal, approved by Cabinet on Wednesday, provides for an emergency council with a network of district, divisional, and village-level committees to meet any event arising from the efforts of Tamil rebels to establish a break-away "state of Eelam" in the north and east by January 14, the Tamil New Year Festival.

The Prime Minister will supervise the plan, and at district level retired Brigadier Dennis Hapugalle has been recalled to organise peoples' committees in Colombo and urban areas to warn of attempts to disrupt essential services or attack public installations.

They will also help to maintain law and order and to train volunteer groups in crowd control, fire fighting, and other emergencies.

The spokesman corrected an earlier official report that said four suspected Tamil rebels were killed when the navy fired on an Indian trawler off the northern coast on Wednesday. He said four Indians had been arrested and would soon be sent back to India.

Four oil tanker lorries taking 4,600 gallons of diesel to the state-owned Bus Transport Board in Jaffna disappeared yesterday, with their eight Tamil drivers. They are believed to have been hijacked.

Under emergency measures in the Jaffna district, fuel is being rationed to 2.5 gallons per person in an attempt to curb the mobility of the separatist guerrillas.

Treason charge dropped at Kampala trial

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

The five-week old trial of four Ugandans and a Pakistani of plotting to overthrow the Ugandan government ended abruptly yesterday in Kampala when the State Attorney told the British Judge, Mr Justice Peter Allen, that he had been instructed to withdraw the charge of treason.

Mr Justice Allen discharged the five men, who are alleged to have fought as guerrillas in

Japanese spend over £12bn on expenses

From David Watts Tokyo

Japanese businessmen spent more than £12 billion last year entertaining customers and sending seasonal gifts to oil the wheels of commerce.

But despite the staggering outlay, approximately equal to the annual gross domestic product of Singapore, they earned a respectable return on investment: £3.4 for each £1.38 spent.

Expenses quickly mount up in Tokyo's Giza area where an evening of companionship with a gorgeous young lady, some Scotch and delicate but pricey snacks can cost several hundred pounds.

For businessmen, price is no concern. The most important consideration is to make the customer feel he is important. Besides, at the end of the evening the host merely signs the bill and wends his way into the dazzling neon-lit streets with the happy thought that it is all tax deductible.

The National tax administration's figures show that businessmen spent £5,523 billion last year or about £12.1 billion.

Gorbachov may test fresh ideas in Britain

From Richard Owen Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Kremlin No 2, may bring new proposals to London in a week's time for talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, according to Soviet sources.

Moscow's main concern was its relationship with the United States, the sources added, but Britain was seen as both a key member of the European Community and an indirect channel to Washington at a sensitive stage in East-West relations.

Mr Gorbachov, aged 53, making his first important foray to the West since his successful trip to Canada in May 1983, would elaborate in private talks with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary on Russia's hopes for the talks in Geneva between Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and Mr George Shultz, his

American opposite number.

The Soviet Union is keen to "return to the era of détente", the sources said, but not at the expense of Soviet interests, including developments in the "existing balance" of nuclear forces in Europe. This suggests that the presence of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Europe, as well as the British and French nuclear deterrents, could still become sticking points.

President Chernenko, who has been in the forefront of attempts to revive East-West relations, revealed this week in talks with the American industrialist, Dr Armand Hammer, that Moscow had initiated the January Geneva talks on arms control.

The sources said Mr Gorbachov, a former protégé of the late Yuri Andropov, had been an ally of Mr Chernenko in the struggle to convince Kremlin

hardliners that the time was ripe for a rapprochement with President Reagan. But diplomats commented that Mr Chernenko and Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet leader's most likely successor, could not appear to be making any concessions to the West.

The emerging Kremlin line is that while Washington is still aggressive and militaristic, "realistic circles" in the US - including businessmen - are willing to co-exist with Russia.

Pravda yesterday featured Mr Gorbachov's recent talks with Mr Dwayne Andreas, the joint head of the Soviet-American Trade and Economic Council, who also had talks with Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister.

Tass suggested yesterday that granting Russia "most favoured nation status" would be a "cardinal first step" by the Reagan Administration towards

normalizing East-West relations.

Mr Gorbachov's talks with Mr Andreas show that he is among those spearheading the Kremlin's new drive for détente. *Pravda* yesterday said the talks had been discussed at this week's Politburo meeting, together with Mr Gromyko's report on the Berlin conference of Warsaw Pact foreign ministers.

● PARTY RIFTS: *Pravda* reported angry disputes yesterday at a gathering of senior Communist officials in Prague in what was regarded by diplomats as a sign of irritation and disappointment by the Kremlin (Reuters reports). Western diplomats said unusually frank reporting by *Pravda* of the arguments indicated Kremlin annoyance that smaller foreign parties were not prepared to play down their differences with Moscow.

Unleaded petrol to be on sale throughout EEC by 1989, ministers agree

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Unleaded petrol will have to be on sale throughout the EEC by 1989 at the latest, Community environment ministers agreed yesterday. Some countries may decide to make it available before then.

This will open the way to the marketing of "environmentally-conscious" vehicles, which are already under development. The aim is to phase out by the end of the century all but a limited number of vintage and specialist cars using leaded petrol.

Britain is also likely to be one of a number of countries which will insist on a permitted maximum level of 0.15 grammes of lead per litre of petrol from 1989.

What the environment ministers have yet to do, however, is decide in what kind of car unleaded petrol should be used. This will be the subject of a report to be drawn up by the Commission early next year and which will review the effects of the different systems available.

There are two main contenders. One is the catalyst

converter, favoured by West Germany. It is an attachment to the exhaust system, which destroys toxic gases. The other is the lean-burn engine favoured by the motor industry and most governments. This is an engine which eats up the toxic emissions before they reach the exhaust system.

Supporters of the catalyst box say it is technology which can be applied to all cars now. Supporters of the lean-burn engine claim it is far more efficient and energy-conscious and that the catalyst requires expensive engine timing and controls.

Some estimates show that to adopt the system favoured by West Germany would cost the motor industry in Europe up to £10,000m.

The commission is also to draw up a report on how farmers can be helped to protect the environment by growing less. This case has been pressed hard by Britain, which argues that it is wrong to run a policy which induces farmers to drain wetlands and dig up hedgerows to grow more unwanted prod-

ucts. It wants farmers to be compensated for not disturbing natural features.

● LONDON: There was a guarded welcome yesterday for the lead-free petrol decision. (Kenneth Gossling writes.)

Both the motor trade and a leading environmental group felt there should have been changes in engine design. After the talks, Mr William Waldegrave, Environment Under-Secretary of State, said market forces would encourage the earlier use of lead-free petrol, but he conceded that a wide gap existed between some EEC countries over the pace of change.

Mr Des Wilson, chairman of the Campaign for Lead-free Air, said the big debate was not about lead-free petrol, but how to tackle other emissions.

They would continue to press for an earlier date than 1989 and completion of the other debate on car technology, so as to have cars running on lead-free petrol as soon as it was available.

Astiz faces trial seven years after girl's death

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

An Argentine judge has ordered the arrest and trial of Captain Alfredo Astiz, who is suspected of having played a central role in the military junta's "dirty war" in the late 1970s, in connection with the disappearance in 1977 of a young Swedish woman.

Judge Miguel Del Castillo ordered Astiz's arrest in a telegram to President Raul Alfonsín, the civilian formal commander of the armed forces.

Astiz, known as "the Blond Angel", will face charges of kidnapping and murder in the case of Miss Dagmar Hagelin, who disappeared apparently, mistaken for an Argentine friend "marked" for arrest.

Miss Hagelin, aged 17, was allegedly shot by Captain Astiz when he confused her with his intended victim during an ambush at a house outside Buenos Aires. She was driven away by the ambush team.

Two former political prisoners who reportedly saw her at a secret Navy torture centre in Buenos Aires recently returned from Europe to testify before Judge Del Castillo. That testimony, with the statement of Miss Hagelin's father, was a key factor in the decision to arrest Captain Astiz.

Nearly 10,000 people disappeared during the campaign against leftist which began in 1976. A Navy tribunal halted action against Astiz by clearing him of all charges in 1981.

Astiz commanded the Argentine garrison on the South Georgian islands during the 1982 Falklands war, and was taken to London as a prisoner of war.

While he was in British hands, the Swedish and French governments sought to question him about disappearances in Argentina. Captain Astiz is also accused of the kidnapping of two French nuns who disappeared in 1976.



Up and about: Mr William Schroeder, who was given an artificial heart in Louisville, Kentucky, last week, carrying a portable heart driver unit to help him walk. He has moved to a private room from Humana Audubon Hospital's cardiac unit.

Belgian who shot Spurs fan gets three-year sentence

Brussels (PA) - A Belgian bar owner who shot dead a Tottenham Hotspur supporter in Brussels was sentenced to three years' imprisonment yesterday but he could be free again next May.

Albert Neuckermans, aged 32, sat impassive in the dock in a courtroom here as the judge described how a scuffle involving British soccer fans in his bar had incensed him. But, said the judge, the shooting which followed, leaving 19-year-old Brian Flanagan dead, had not been predetermined.

Flanagan, of Finsbury Park, London, was killed by a bullet in the back from a .22 rifle on May 8 this year. He and other Spurs fans were fleeing from the bar when Albert Del Christe, in the red light district of Brussels at the time having only arrived in the city a short while earlier, for the Spurs match against Anderlecht.

In passing sentence yesterday, the judge emphasized that no provocation by Flanagan had been proved. There was no evidence that Flanagan was involved in vandalism at the

bar and no one had been injured, although there was a scuffle.

He left the bar with the other fans when Mr Neuckermans reached for a rifle to chase the supporters off his premises.

Last week, when Mr Neuckermans was found guilty of "unintentional homicide", the court heard that he pursued the Spurs fans and fired down a nearby street, hitting Flanagan in the back.

Under Belgian law, Mr Neuckermans is entitled to two-thirds remission of a three-year sentence, amounting to one year spent in jail. He has already spent seven months in custody awaiting trial and, with good behaviour, could be freed next May.

Flanagan's parents, who themselves run a pub, were angry at what they saw as a lenient sentence.

"We are very upset about it," his mother, Mrs Vivian Flanagan, said. "We think the judge was very lenient. The man who killed our son should have got more than that - he could be out in six months."

Church keeps heat on Jaruzelski

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Poland's Roman Catholic bishops, meeting in closed session to discuss relations with the Communist authorities, yesterday said the murder of the pro-Solidarity priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszko, had unleashed "new tensions".

The church leadership also condemned the ripping down of crucifixes in schools and factories by Communists.

The statement, contained in a pastoral letter to be read tomorrow, was a sharp reminder to the Jaruzelski government that the church would continue to press for its

rights and for clarification on the Popieluszko murder.

The Primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, has also let it be known that the controversial "Mass for the Fatherland", introduced by Popieluszko, would be continued, but by a rota of 12 priests, to reduce the risk of persecution.

The pastoral letter describes the Popieluszko affair as a "painful experience" for the nation. "Both our society and the world have yet to calm down following this unheard-of crime... Irresponsible forces are causing new tensions and anxieties."

Kanaks pull back as ten are mourned

Noumea (AFP) - Melanesian separatists seeking independence from France continued yesterday to dismantle road blocks in New Caledonia, but said they would maintain controls on access to several towns.

Meanwhile, thousands of opponents gathered in Noumea, some speakers hinting that they might crack down on separatist violence in the South Pacific territory if Paris did not.

They demanded that the separatists leave the eastern town of Thio, which has been held for two weeks. The rebels say they will leave on Monday, but will continue to control access.

The main Melanesian independence group, the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front, appears to be fulfilling a pledge to pull back. It has declared a day of mourning for 10 Melanesians who died at a white roadblock.

The death toll, including two brothers of M Jean-Marie Tjibaou, president of the Kanak "provisional government", rose to 10 yesterday when another Melanesian died of his wounds.

Managua promises Miskitos autonomy

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

The Sandinista Government is to grant certain autonomous rights to the Indian and creole people of Nicaragua's Caribbean coast region. It has appointed a commission to draw up legislation which will be presented to the recently elected National Assembly early next year for incorporation into a new constitution.

The measure is likely to recognize the rights of Miskito, Sumo and Rama Indians and English-speaking creoles to their own language, bilingual education, traditional lands and natural resources.

The Government had made it clear that autonomy falls far short of partition but "may include certain forms of self-government in those aspects which do not contradict the prerogatives of the state". The Deputy Interior Minister, Comandante Luis Carrion, who will head the commission, said the prerogatives included foreign policy and defence.

"It is necessary and just that ethnic groups with different languages and culture should be respected and allowed to develop in the interests of the cultural, social and political

enrichment of all Nicaraguan people."

Comandante Carrion went to Bogota yesterday for a second round of talks with Señor Brooklyn Rivera, leader of the rebel Indian organization, Misurasata.

He joined the counter-revolution three years ago after the Sandinistas reacted harshly to the autonomous aspirations of the coastal population.

An estimated 20,000 Miskitos fled or were led by guerrilla groups into Honduras during the ensuing war. The Sandinistas forcibly resettled much of the population.

The government has admitted making serious mistakes, and the commission is the most important fruit of efforts over the past two years to repair the damage.

● MIAMI: President Duarte of El Salvador has said he is prepared to suspend military operations at Christmas if guerrilla forces agree (NYT reports). He had sent a letter to Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas of San Salvador, but had received no response from the guerrillas.

Sex slave case man to stand trial

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

A California mill worker has been ordered to stand trial on bizarre charges of kidnapping a young woman at knife-point, keeping her as his sex slave and chaining her in a large box for seven years.

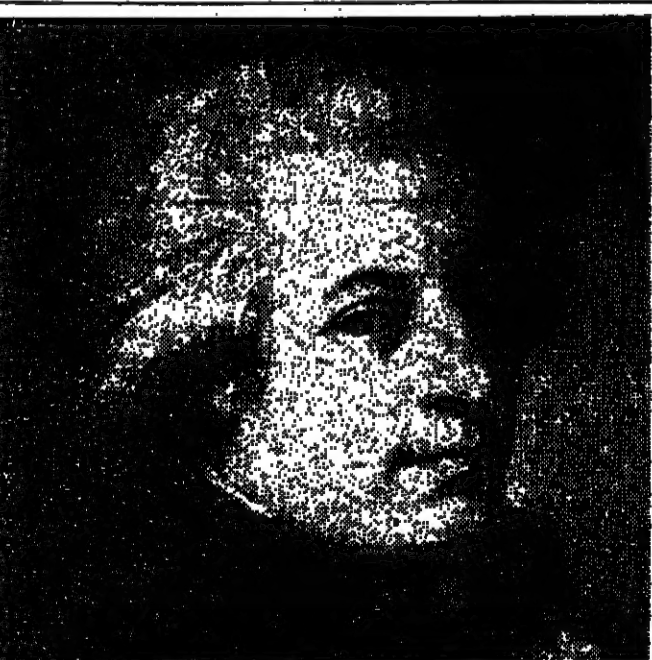
After hearing two days of evidence, Judge Dennis Murray ordered Cameron Hooker, aged 31, to stand trial on December 17 in the tiny northern California town of Red Bluff on seven charges including kidnap and felony sex.

The ruling came after the court heard lurid details of how Mr Hooker and his wife, Janice, kidnapped the young woman on a street in Red Bluff when they picked her up in 1977 as a hitch-hiker. Mrs Hooker said she and her husband took the hitch-hiker home at knife-point, and then hung her from the rafters nude and blindfolded while they had sex in front of her.

Testifying in a packed court in the town, some 160 miles from San Francisco, Mrs Hooker said the woman was chained in a large box "about the size of a chest freezer" and later kept prisoner while wearing a smaller soundproof hood.

The young woman testified on Thursday that Mr Hooker "hung me up (nude) once and another time he brought a gun into the living room and told me to put my mouth over the barrel and pull the trigger". She said she complied "because I didn't believe the gun was loaded, and I didn't want to find out what would happen if I didn't".

Also on the programme is Rossini's "Sinfonia di Odeone" of 1813 found in the vaults of Odeone town hall in 1946 in circumstances very similar to the discovery of the "new" Mozart work.



Mozart Premiere tomorrow of 1768 work

Lost Mozart symphony gets first performance

From Christopher Follett, Odense

The premiere of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's long-lost symphony in A minor, No 16A in the Kochei register of the composer's complete works, is to take place on this Baltic island tomorrow.

One of Mozart's first symphonies, "The Odeone Symphony" dates from about 1768 and was probably composed in Vienna at the age of 12.

The Odeone Musical Society acquired the score, which is clearly marked "Del Sign. Mozart" (By Signor Mozart) in 1793 only unaccountably to lose it in its archives for almost 200 years until it was unearthed in 1982.

Research by Mozart experts

Party re-elects Peacock by acclaim

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

Mr Andrew Peacock was yesterday re-elected leader of Australia's parliamentary Liberal Party by acclamation, his reward for confounding the opinion polls, reducing the Labour government's majority and gaining a swing of 1.7 per cent to the Opposition last Saturday's federal election. The meeting was in Canberra.

Mr Peacock basked in the warmth of a standing ovation by his colleagues and embraced Mr John Howard, who was endorsed as deputy without a vote. Mr Howard is seen as Mr Peacock's main rival for the party leadership.

After the meeting, Mr Howard, asked if he would rule

out a challenge to Mr Peacock before the next election, said: "I think somebody that's had the track record of loyalty that I've had for the cause of the Liberal Party, is not really required to answer that question."

"Given all of the circumstances, given the unanimous re-election of Mr Peacock as leader, given the track record of loyalty that I have always displayed towards leaders that I have served, I don't believe that it is necessary for me to add to the answer I've given and I don't propose to."

Mr Peacock, asked if he was comfortable with that answer, said "very much so". He had "nothing but loyalty, privately

and publicly, from Mr Howard."

Also re-elected unanimously yesterday were Mr Fred Chaney, Senate opposition leader, and Mr Peter Durack, his deputy.

Yesterday's meetings did not decide on the make-up of the Opposition front bench, which will be completed at a meeting of the Liberal and National parties on Wednesday.

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SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Playing the market

If it is bullsh*it you seek from the market, look no further than the Stock Exchange Stags, the American football team that has just finished its first season. "It's not hard to find big and crazy guys in the City", says coach and quarterback Tom They, of Bank of America. "They are really tough boys." No matter that the Stags first four games all ended in defeat next April they will fight with the best in Britain's first full league programme. There are three Americans in the squad of 45, and the two stars are both English rugby types - tailback Robert Mapstone from Rosslyn Park and fullback Mick Shepherd of Blackheath. They are lost in admiration for them all: "I thought they'd be Pee-wee League standard. But they learn fast. And they're really physical."

Pelégrination

Pelé, alas, is not *persona grata* with his former club, Santos. Needing to beat Corinthians to win the Sao Paulo title for the first time in 14 years, they begged him not to attend the match. He was a jinx, they said, whose forecasts always went wrong. They even took down Pelé's picture in the dressing room and put up one of Jesus Christ. Santos won 1-0; and took the title.

● Larry Lloyd was sacked as manager of Notts County Football Club in October. A few weeks later he won a £300 prize - as a member of the Notts County One Hundred Club.

Peak condition

Richard Crane, who ran across the Himalayas last year, took part in the extraordinary Mount Cameroon Race on January 27. The distance is 27 kilometres. The course is on a 13,353ft volcano. Runners start in rain forest, cross savannah and reach, with luck, the snow-capped peak. They then turn around and go back again. Local dangers, apart from one-in-four inclines, are wild boar and python. Participants have been asked to make "sacrifices" to the gods of the local Bakweri tribe.

Ton-up

No sooner had Mike Gatting scored his first Test Match century in 54 attempts, than he scored another international ton in the one-day match at Poona. This is very much the Gatting way. He made his first appearance in first-class cricket in 1975, and did not make a hundred until 1978: then he got another in his next innings. And in the innings after that, he was caught off a big hit on 88. Rumours abound that Gatting fancies his chances of hitting little Shivaramkrishnan into the mists of memory.

See red

Appalling crowd behaviour has got Vietnam's official newspaper *Nhan Dan* in a fury. At a recent match between military teams from Vietnam and Laos, the home crowd used "rude words" and called for the expulsion of one of their own players.

Umpirical

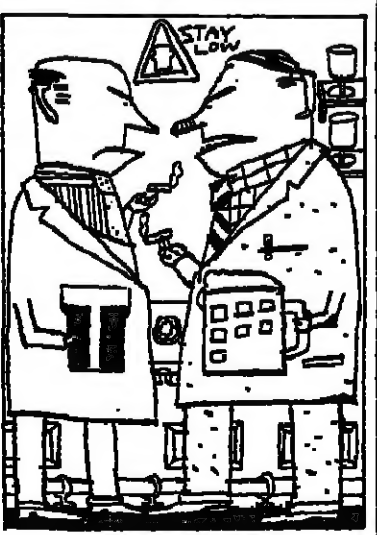
Mounting ire at Indian umpiring decisions stirred memories for Jim Laker, at the Lord's Taverners lunch this week. He recalled when George Tribe, touring India with a Commonwealth XI in 1950-51, had numerous appeals for leg-before turned down. In the end, the Northamptonshire Australian seized the umpire by the scruff of the neck, demanding that he took a second look. The umpire did so. "Oh yes, Mr Tribe, you are quite right."

● Cecil Parkinson is making a sporting comeback as chairman of the joint fundraising committee of the Sports Aid Foundation and the Sports Aid Trust. He finds it a "marvellous antidote to politics".

Footwork

Neil Warnock was sold by Aldershot Football Club after three seasons. These days he is a chiropractor and manager of the Northern Premier League side Burton Albion, who go to Aldershot today for the FA Cup second round. It is Warnock's second trip back to Aldershot, and he has wondrous memories of his time as a Barnsley player: "I was going towards the goal," he says, "and the manager who sold me yelled at the defender to let me cut in and get on my left foot, because he knew I was always a right-sided player." Warnock was therefore forced to have a crack with his wrong foot: the ball screamed in from 40 yards to settle the match.

BARRY FANTONI



"It's criminal of the government to stop telling us 'Don't drink and drive'."

Race to woo the common stock

The popularity of the British Telecom launch with small investors may herald a new trend. William Kay asks who will step in to meet the market opportunities

The success of the British Telecom share sale is about to make itself felt throughout the land. The small investor, and in particular the two million who have put their names and addresses on the BT share register, can expect to find themselves on the receiving end of a very hard sell over the next few years.

Thanks to some assiduous prodding by Sir Gordon Borrie of the Office of Fair Trading, Britain's financial services industry is undergoing a revolution. That revolution centres on the Stock Exchange, which is due in 1986 to be opened up to worldwide competition from whoever has the money, credentials and inclination to bid for custom. But the great imponderable in that revolution has been the small investor. This endangered species has been declining in numbers for over 20 years, under the withering fire of repeated increases in personal tax. A rumour of 1½ million remained, mainly because of inheritance. The question was whether the species could be revived. Although it is not yet clear how many of the BT applicants were shareholders already, there is no doubt that a significant number of first-timers were tempted into posting cheques.

That indicates a considerable amount of untapped demand. And in business terms, untapped demand represents opportunity. The tax reforms of Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Nigel Lawson have paved the way, enabling more people to amass

enough spare money to begin to think of buying shares. What has not happened so far in this country is any serious attempt to sell this idea of investing on the stock market to a mass market. Stockbrokers have had neither the office systems nor the temperament to reach out to a large number of people with a few hundred pounds.

Despite campaigns by the Stock Exchange itself, most stockbrokers have preferred to court the big investment funds or the rich individual: some will still not look at any would-be client with less than £20,000, unless that client is content to have his or her money put into a unit trust. After all, a £1,000 transaction costs as much to process as a £1m transaction, and earns far more commission.

But computers and electronic communication make it much more feasible to handle lots of small bargains cheaply. And under the new rules coming into force in 1986 there will be no guarantee that the £1m deal will make that much more commission for the broker than the smaller deal.

This does not mean that every

stockbroker is going to open a high-street shop. The skills required are so totally foreign to many of them that they will find other ways to compete with the City's moneyed walls. What we are already beginning to see, and the success of BT can only encourage, is the emergence of established marketeers and retailers who are clearly keen to deal on behalf of the public at large.

In the past few months both House of Fraser and Debenhams, two department store groups, have forged links with financial organizations. House of Fraser has reached agreement with Hambro Life Assurance whereby Hambro will set up offices in Fraser's chain of stores around the country to sell savings schemes and insurance. Hambro Life in turn has connections with Kiccat and Aitken, the stockbrokers, so it would not be difficult to take orders for the stock market.

Debenhams' arrangement is with Hill Samuel, the merchant banking and unit trust group. It is based on Debenhams' new Homecentre department, which offers an estate agency service. Hill Samuel will give advice on mortgages, life insurance

and pensions. But again, Hill Samuel is tied up with the stockbroker firm of Wood Mackenzie. A third example, Britannia Arrow, the unit trust group, has taken a stake in Heseltine Moss, the stockbroker with branches in every sizeable town along the M4 from London to Cardiff. Britannia Arrow has said that it would like to buy into other provincial stockbrokers.

These alliances have one feature in common, and it is one that is going to become increasingly valuable. Sets of partners will have access to one another's customer lists, giving them a direct line through which to sell their respective wares to a new audience.

And what is the biggest mailing list of all? Why, BT's of course. We can expect a lengthy queue to form outside Companies House when the BT register has been compiled and lodged with the Department of Trade and Industry. It will give a valuable insight into the potential for this country to become a share-owning democracy in the same way as it has become a property-owning one.

Just as the widespread desire for home ownership had made the building society movement bigger than the clearing banks, so a similar conversion to share ownership creates its own industry. The banks have been tentatively thinking of installing some interactive television screens. Whether they do or not, others undoubtedly will.

Peter Lennon on France's greatest proponent of history verité

Annales of a total historian



Champion of immobility: Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie

A critic once described the historical characters of the French historian Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, as "creatures who struggle in a prison with their brother the rat, their guests the flea and their enemy the plague." They are the medieval peasants of southern France. Distaste for such low company might be one of the reasons why the British history establishment has for so long kept his work at sniffing distance.

Le Roy Ladurie is the acknowledged leader of the French Annalist school of history, called after *Annales* which began to publish and proposed a new approach to history in 1929. His adherents concern themselves with the impact on history of commoners rather than the influence of the political or military élite; reject as inadequate a straightforward chronicle of events, and in handling even a minor issue will strive to recreate the total environment of the time.

Le Roy Ladurie, author of *Montaigne and The Peasants of Languedoc*, was in London last weekend at an ICA symposium which was expected to provide a fruitful confrontation between British exponents of "history of events" and this champion of what has been called "immobile" history. As a confrontation with a Gallic adversary did not appeal to the English traditionalists; their preference was for provocative reticence. Only Cambridge historian, Peter Burke, who admits to being a "fellow traveller" and already nine years ago, in the *Times Educational Supplement*, described *The Peasants of Languedoc* as "a masterpiece", was on the platform.

It is not as if the Annalist approach was a hot new fad or entirely foreign to Britain. In the 1950s, W. G. Hoskins published *The Medieval Peasant*, a study of the area around Wigston Magna Leicestershire, using a broadly Annalist approach, and Peter Burke identified a "historical subculture" in Britain which in a variety of ways employs this approach.

This French "new history" might be immobile, but it is total history. It draws on anthropology, theology, demography and psychology. Dendrochronology, the study of tree rings, is one of its tools, and climatology is an important element. (Le Roy Ladurie has published a history of European climate since the year 1,000.)

To the traditional medieval historian, Le Roy Ladurie's style can seem disconcertingly sensational, inviting the reader to excited speculation. Chapter 11 of *Carnival in Romans* opens with heady-eyed speculation on the behaviour of Judge Guérin, prime mover in the subsequent slaughter of peasants during the carnival.

"Could there have been a Huguenot plot at the bottom of the 1579-80 revolt in Dauphine? Judge Guérin seemed to think so, or at least wanted to make us think so. For Guérin is all too clearly the author of the anonymous report

which provides one of the main accounts we have of the protests in Romans." Where the layman might join the traditionalist in distrust is in questioning the historical value of a minute record of the activities of people who, unlike politicians or generals, or indeed artists, do not have any visible effect on the development and destiny of their country. Another question is: what is so special about French peasants?

Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie is not a French peasant, he admits to being the son of a gentleman farmer, brought up in a strict conservative Catholic home in the Calvados area. His childhood ambition to be a naval officer was thwarted by his near-sightedness, which now, at the age of 55, equips him with the deep furrowed squint appropriate to one perpetually scrutinising the Dark Ages.

A slight figure of considerable

charm and fluency he is, with the passing of Sartre, Raymond Aron and Foucault, one of the last French intellectuals of national stature. His books are bestsellers. Although his field is limited to southern France from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century, the French media wheels him out to make pronouncements on Giscard's reign, his reservations about Mitterrand's regime, or whether Nazi war criminals like Barbie should be executed.

Indeed, at one period his only serious rival as a public oracle was Yves Montand, who like Le Roy Ladurie is an ex-Communist. Envious British historians may find consolation in the knowledge that Montand got by far the bigger audience, largely because he can sing better.

Le Roy Ladurie identified Britain's deficiency in providing such historical records as something

many in modern Britain would consider to be a lost possession: success. "The story of England since the Glorious Revolution of 1688 is a success story", he said. "It is a history of progress in liberty, constitutional government, early industrialization and empire. If you take France in the eighteenth century, for example, the image is negative. In consequence England does not have the sombre content of this traditional and reactionary society - a peasantry, Catholicism, things that liberals find a little ridiculous but which in France are very close to us."

Since "the events" of May 1968 there has been a fascination in France with returning to roots. History became the most reliable ingredient for any bestselling book, more popular than fiction. But Le Roy Ladurie admits to a more personal, psychological compulsion. As a youth he went to Paris and became a very active member of the Communist Party. Like many French intellectuals he resigned from the party in 1956, after the Soviet invasion of Hungary, and his thinking is now distinctly conservative.

"Having been a Communist was a very brutal kind of separation from the village life, since it involved immersion in urban life," he said. "So I have a nostalgia for rural life being unable to reintegrate into the community of my childhood. Because of this episode of my youth maybe I am trying to go back in other ways - through history."

He believes, however, that peasants did have a considerable if subtle effect on their society, since life in France was affected by the fact that 80 per cent of the population were peasants with their particular way of "seeing life, of going to church, of loving or hating".

Although the standard-bearer of the *Annales* school, Le Roy Ladurie does not feel obliged to remain imprisoned by this method eternally. His first move away might be traced to a paper on the courtiers of the Court of Louis XIV. "I studied them as if they were savages, or at least an enclosed community." But he has now embarked on a political history of France. "I don't see any objection to looking at what is a king, I think it is difficult to write political history if you do not use some narrative: I am not against narrative. But you can do it from a fresh viewpoint."

In writing a political history he will, he says, encounter great figures such as Richelieu and Saint-Simon. But he will also pay particular attention to politicians of the second rank.

So while British historians have begun to absorb the "new history" in discreet and digestible portions, the French are curving back into traditionalists' territory. "I can't say I will do a better job," Le Roy Ladurie said, "but at least it will be different."

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Christopher Price

Sir Keith, the secret socialist

Over the past few weeks - before his climbdown - Sir Keith Joseph has been sounding like a socialist. The proposals he introduced to make professional parents pay more towards the higher education of their children could well have been introduced by a Labour minister of education; and although Labour MPs tried to distance themselves from Conservative backbenchers by contrasting frenetic opposition to grant cuts with comparative silence towards pensioners' heating allowances, many of them must have been uncomfortable at joining their political opponents in attacking Sir Keith on this particular issue.

In more affluent times, there was one principle to which all political parties aspired - the right of the 18-year-old to independence from his or her parents, however poor or rich they might be. Although they now seem to have abandoned the commitment, the Conservatives endorsed it in their 1979 manifesto in an attempt to woo the student vote in marginal seats. Labour, which granted the vote to 18-year-olds in 1970, has always made the principle of student independence an important part of its higher education policy.

It was this principle which underlay Mr Mulley's student grant settlement in 1976 when he abolished for the first time all fees for home students and instituted a substantial minimum maintenance grant. But Mr Mulley's concessions to student independence largely benefited the middle class. It constituted the most generous package ever for affluent families and their student offspring. There was no corresponding clawback in taxation to pay for the exercise. If the Conservatives had ever introduced a similar package, it would probably have been attacked as pampering the rich.

Autonomy is only one element of the student grant jigsaw, however. Sir Keith's weeks of agonising revolved round other politically ambivalent arguments. Is the higher education of the minority which receives it a public or a private "good"? Is it investment in the future of the nation, or entrenchment of the class privileges of those who so substantially benefit from it? It is clearly both, and there are swings of the pendulum as to which element is the more important socially and politically.

In the early 1970s, when Ivan Illich produced *Deschooling Society* and propounded the latter thesis, he was adopted by some (including myself) as a left-wing prophet, but he was also influential on the new right. Only three years ago, Professor Maurice Peston (of the Labour Party) and Milton Friedman (of the Chicago School) agreed on TV on the case for student loans - reasoning that it was quite inequitable for the state to make a gift to our future professionals of the resources which eventually make them rich. So Sir Keith's line had respectable socialist as well as monetarist provenance. It was political reality which brought him rudely to his senses.

I know the feeling. Five years ago when Labour was working on its policies for private education, I

produced a scheme under which university grants and freedom from fees would be restricted to state school pupils. It had the effect of asking public school pupils to pay the same £5,000 annual university fees as Malaysians and Nigerians, and was designed to prevent parents using private secondary education to gain privileged access to state subsidised higher education.

I felt Labour would stand up and applaud the idea, not a bit of it. The NEC rejected the plan. They said it was unfair; but their real motives, like those of the Government this week, were fear of middle-class fury. They foresaw a welter of opposition to the idea, not just from of stockbroker-belt letters to the *Daily Telegraph* but more seriously from the National Union of Students. Once again electoral discretion became the better part of (in this case) socialist valour.



Sir Keith: middle-class rout

At least Sir Keith's political agony has produced an enquiry. I hope it offers those presently excluded from further and higher education a piece of the action. What is the justification for restricting access to education after school during a period of mass unemployment? Why should mandatory grants be restricted to degree and certain diploma courses? The 1944 Education Act made it illegal to charge fees in state supported schools. Why then charge fees in state supported colleges and universities?

Sir Keith was right to try to spread more on science because he belatedly recognized that we are in a competitive international market which demands public investment in its scientific and technological infrastructure. But what about public investment in the skills of the people?

There is a strong case for more access to higher and further education. But it will have to be paid for by taxes on the affluent, raised by a government which is not frightened of middle-class revolt. Neither Mr Callaghan nor Mr Wilson before him faced this problem much better than Mrs Thatcher did this week.

The author is pro-assistant director of the Polytechnic of the South Bank; until last year he was a Labour MP and chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts.

Roy Strong

Fantasies afforded by the des. res.

I hope that I am not alone in finding advertisements for houses hypnotic reading matter. It is a sad confession that much of the appeal of that delectable old war-horse, *Country Life*, springs from the voyage of the mind and the imagination triggered off by the property pages. Property in the glossies is superior property: that is part of the attraction. Financial constraints are put aside and one reimagines one's existence in a Victorian rectory in Staffordshire, a castle in Sutherland or a Georgian terrace house in Bath. Busily one tots up the number of living rooms and bedrooms, assigning them to occupants *en passant*, the service areas and the extent of the garden, arranging oneself and one's artefacts into them.

The vocabulary used is so limited that one feels anyone working in an estate agents must either be illiterate or part of some plot to kill off the English language: "excellent", "superb", "exclusive", "impressive", "elegant", "charming". The word "luxury" has certainly shed its biblical overtones indicative of untold decadent excess. I remain haunted by the notion that there must exist, hidden away somewhere, a glossary that agents use which actually defines what is meant by "quiet", "secluded", "superb", "gracious", "lovely", "outstanding", "well-appointed" and "original".

There are four distinct phases in looking at these advertisements. The earliest is that of youth, merely day-dreaming; the next is that of reality of the search; the third is one of greed, gleaning over what is hoped a rising investment, a conclusion to be sustained by looking for similar properties and seeing what they cost; finally, there comes the moment of unloading, when one comes face to face with one's own dwelling pinned up in an estate agent's window or printed in a newspaper or magazine.

Those in the business must know how pathetically gullible we all are, for we are bombarded with endless new glossy magazines which are given away, paid for entirely by the advertising of property. These publications in the main seem to record presences at parties, the inevitable guides to food and drink, a profile of a personality, and above all column inches on each area of London and its current

rating in the investment stakes. They are deeply off-putting, and the paper on which they are printed invariably smells.

It is striking, however, that no photograph actually conveys the intangible atmosphere of a home. Everyone who has hunted for a house or flat knows that. The reality is always quite different. It can be as elementary as the fact that if the camera's eye had moved either a fraction to the left or right, it would have taken in the gas filling station or silage tower. More inexplicable is that feeling of arriving to view a place and knowing that it is not even worth getting out of the car. Sometimes that gut reaction only happens within, when one is overpowered by a sudden sense of a situation as though the walls exuded a sinister rejection.

That aura of good or ill, happiness or gloom, joy or melancholy emanates from encounters with even the humblest of dwellings. It is quite unnerving. Ghosus, I suppose. Ghosts of another sort can be compiled going around empty houses where there is always just enough left of the previous occupants to piece together their existence. Did they really live in such squalor? Whatever went on in that bathroom painted black? And I don't like to think what happened in the games room! Simultaneously projecting one's own life onto the building, the mind recreates the one that has gone.

At no time in our history can there have been such an acreage of paper devoted to the change in ownership of domestic residences. What a mine of social history they present: architecture, interiors, an index to what was thought of as modern or new in terms of facilities and comforts. How I would love to have turned over the imaginary pages of advertisements from the Tudor or Stuart period. Whereas we dwell on the virtues of central heating or the addition of a swimming pool, they would have highlighted such novelties as glazed windows, a garden or, rather still, a bathroom. And the language of sale would have been that of the Authorized Version: "goodly", "fair", "majestic", "comely", and "stately".

Sir Roy Strong is director of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Third World industry: the toxic mix

However much the world chemical industry protests its innocence in the wake of the Bhopal disaster, it had a certain inevitability according to many environmental experts. Chemical companies refuse accusations that they operate double standards - taking wilful advantage of lax safety regulations in developing countries to build dangerous plants which would not be accepted in the West.

The industry argues that no self-respecting multinational can afford to be known as negligent, or to cut corners. "There is no question of double standards," says a spokesman for British Petroleum. "Chemicals are simply too dangerous to take chances with. It is not just people that have to be safeguarded, but multi-million pound investments."

He also points out, however, that the practices of some individual companies are likely to be better than others, and that "It is more difficult to operate in some places than others." Dr Peter Merriman, in charge of safety at the 200-member Chemical Industries Association (CIA) in London, adds: "The best hardware (the plant) is no better than the software (the operating mechanisms and personnel) it employs."

These are exactly the kind of warning notes struck by environmental experts. Dr Lee Talbot, formerly director general of the

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and now a fellow of the World Resources Institute in Washington, says that in their eagerness to industrialize, developing countries "often put pressure on multinational companies to lower their standards". Some resist; some, particularly in the depressed state of the world chemical industry, find that hard.

Then what Dr Talbot calls the special circumstances of developing countries come into play. As in Bhopal, communities driven to urban centres from depressed rural areas are allowed to congregate and build shanty houses around industrial plants. Their dwellings are often made of cardboard, paper or straw. Infrastructure is poor; fire and water services rudimentary. If a major accident does occur, relief and resale is difficult.

Dr Talbot also points out that cultural problems increase the risks. Local managers and operators have to be trained (at Bhopal there were no expatriate personnel) and illiterate staff have to be schooled in basic techniques such as closing down valves and bolts when servicing a plant. If the staff cannot read, it must be informed through signs or audio-visual communication, which means increased expenditure on training and equipment.

Dr Thatcher, formerly deputy executive director of the United

Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) says these factors can lead to "a lack of quality control", exacerbated by the fact that many large chemical plants in the developing world are like Union Carbide in Bhopal, joint ventures between state and private enterprise. Thatcher says: "All developing country governments operate under tremendous temptations, and the temptations worsen as indebtedness grows."

It cannot be a coincidence, he argues, that pollution levels in developing countries are rising as those in the West are falling. Some countries, such as Mexico, Brazil, Indonesia and Taiwan, are alleged to offer freedom from local pollution legislation as a way of encouraging investment.

The Oxford-based Trade Union International Research and Education Group, which is helping to teach Third World workers about health and safety, points out that of Mexico's 23 asbestos plants, all but two have been built since 1965. American corporations, in response to domestic concern and legislation, closed plants at home and opened others just across the border in Mexico.

The gap between disaster and enforcement of legislation is wide, and much disputed, as the relatively easy British experience shows. On

December 18 the Control of Industrial Major Accident Hazards (CIMAH) regulations will come before Parliament. They consist of Britain's response to the EEC's so-called Seveso Directive, which requires European countries to tighten their industrial safety and disclosure procedures, an initiative that came in the wake of the 1976 Italian disaster.

Some institutions are attempting to address similar issues at a wider front. Last month UNEP held a conference in Versailles on Industry and the Environment. Major emphasis was put on the transfer of industrial risk information as an integral part of the transfer of technology.

Developing countries stressed their need for an international data base on which to make informed decisions on design and safety regulations. But as Dr Martin Holgate, Chief Scientist at the Department of the Environment, and a former chairman of the UNEP governing council, points out: "Many developing countries put themselves on the horns of a dilemma. They do not want to import social and environmental risks, but they do want revenue and jobs."

Andrew Lycett



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

BEGINNING THE BUDGET BATTLE

The Budget season has begun early, but in earnest. Now the Tory backbenches have tasted power, both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor seem to have realized they have a battle on their hands. If they are to avoid the ignominy of a contested Finance Bill next summer, they need to persuade their party in advance to endorse their tax priorities.

So we have Mrs Thatcher's unusually broad pre-Budget hints that Mr Lawson's spare cash (£1½ billion net, at the latest Treasury guess) should be concentrated on raising the thresholds for personal taxation. Such an attempt, if not actually to consult, at least to prepare the ground, is a welcome consequence of the Josephine student grants debacle. Mrs Thatcher and her neighbour will, however, have to take the argument a whole lot further before Budget day.

The Prime Minister argued that Britain's tax thresholds are too low in relation to social security benefits. She and her Chancellor rightly believe this exacerbates both the "poverty trap" and the "unemployment trap". (The former catches those low-earning families who find that a discouragingly high proportion of extra earnings is clawed back from them through higher tax and a cut in means-tested benefits; the latter catches those jobless families who find that low-paid work offers a discouragingly small increase in net income compared with supplementary benefit.)

But the argument has to be made at once more general and more specific. The general point worrying many of Mrs Thatcher's backbenchers is that pound for pound higher public investment would seem to boost employment more immediately than tax cuts, since a higher proportion of money given to individuals to spend "leaks" into imports. The liberal answer to this is that people should be allowed to express their consumer preferences, but it sticks in many politicians' gullets when unemployment is over three million and still rising.

A subtler answer is that the loss from import "leakage" would be much less if all of Europe were to cut taxes together, thus stimulating competition, consumer choice and continental expansion all at the same time. The Government's suspicion of anything that smacks of European economic policy co-operation has so far deprived it of this useful card; but there is another vital way in which it needs to refine its arguments in favour of tax cuts.

Politically and economically, tax reductions tend to pall in comparison with "hard decisions" in public expenditure when they are too general. For example, it is not hard to understand why politicians balked at charging core supporters up to £900 a year more for educating their children in order to save a sum that, if used to raise tax thresholds, could

provide all standard-rate taxpayers with less than another 4p a week. The point is not, as some Tories speciously claimed, that £39 million is an "insignificant sum"; it is that in tax policy as much as expenditure planning, it needs to be used to maximum effect.

This means Mrs Thatcher's general desire to lessen the poverty and unemployment traps should be expressed in tax changes focussed on specific groups and problems. It is families who are caught in Mrs Thatcher's "traps"; and they make up only a minority of the unemployed. The way to make a significant impact on their tax bills is by restructuring family taxation. For all the unemployed, Mr Lawson's strategy should embrace national insurance (a generally heavy tax on the low-paid) and social security rules which penalize acceptance of part-time jobs, which are the only kind of employment showing significant growth.

Such changes need not prevent Mr Lawson from re-arranging the tax structure, shifting more of the burden on to expenditure, thinning out income tax reliefs and raising thresholds for all. But he does need to proceed on the basis of his party's confidence that tax cuts made with it as were, his free cash - his net "fiscal adjustment" - will be precisely and efficiently designed to have maximum impact on its rising worries about unemployment.

A NEW CONTEXT FOR LOMÉ

This is an important day for Lomé, the capital of the impoverished west African state of Togo. Ministers from all the members of the European Community will meet counterparts from more than 60 developing African, Caribbean and Pacific countries for the quinquennial signing of the aid and trade convention that bears Lomé's name. But the significance of the occasion is not merely ritualistic.

The third Lomé Convention, which runs from 1985 to 1990, should be seen as a turning point in the history of the tortured relations between rich and poor nations. It embodies a new toughness on the part of the donors, a change of attitude which typifies the recent determination of donors to exercise more influence not only over how much assistance they give to developing countries but also over how that aid is spent.

Correspondingly, the new convention implies an acceptance, however grudging, by recipient countries that the era of aid and of trade concessions without strings is past. The import of the change is underlined by the fact that Lomé is the cornerstone of the Community's foreign policy towards developing countries

and that as such it was originally conceived as a treaty between equals.

The financial stringencies under which the community feels it is operating - a stringency which extends collectively to countries which individually are generous in the help to emerging nations - is reflected in the global amount of official transfers. At 7,500 million European Currency Units (£4,500 million) there is little real increase. Britain's share of £740 million over the five years has been somewhat reduced proportionately by the addition of notional amounts for Spain and Portugal on the assumption that those countries join the community.

Substantial as these sums seem, it is the trade provisions of the treaty which offer most to those African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, 38 of which are members of the Commonwealth. But objections by the Mediterranean community members prevented further liberalisation of the conditions governing imports into the community from the ACP. It is regrettable that the logic of defending the Common Agricultural Policy should have provoked a disproportionate resistance to higher imports of rum

from the West Indies, for example.

That said, the Europeans did agree to new procedures for evaluating ACP applications to export different goods to the community, and that change is to be welcomed. But for the European taxpayer, who is barely conscious of ACP exports, the attention will still focus on aid. Here the Community has given teeth to the "policy dialogue" on which so much emphasis has been placed by indicating its preference for food production in the ACP countries and by playing a much more detailed part in planning projects. More Commission officials will be assigned to recipient countries and in the end the Commission reserves the right to refuse money for projects of which it disapproves.

The new tougher policy should ensure that fewer of what M. Edgard Pisani, the commissioner in charge of Lomé, called "cathedrals in the desert" will be built. But it also demands more commitment by the donors. The real importance of today's signing is that the European Community will have to accept responsibility for the failures as well as the successes of the third Lomé Convention.

POLITICIAN, PUNDIT - AND PAINTER?

In the first place it must be made clear that the Presidency of the Royal Academy is not the Turner Prize. Mr Roger de Grey, the new President, has not been appointed Top Artist, and he would be the first to acknowledge that there are more notable painters both among the Academicians who elected him and in the category of distinguished unclubbables who have never sought to join. The confusion dates back to the earliest days of the Academy, for it took the shape it did largely because Sir Joshua Reynolds, its first president, was an effective leader in policy terms and a sovereign pundit on matters of style, as well as being the foremost painter of his day.

But it is unusual for all three capacities to coexist in one man. Only one other president since then, Leighton, was the acknowledged leading artist of his day. Neither Turner nor Constable ever became president. Genius quite commonly goes with limited skill at handling committees and with a strong reluctance to be distracted from one's own work. The amiable tradition of choosing a leader from among practitioners limits the field to those with time to serve, and tends to impose a loss in administrative and public relations skills for the sake of the special authority that only a practitioner can supply. The Royal Institute of British Architects, by coincidence, is also currently selecting a president to be spokesman for its much-abused profession, and is faced with similar problems.

The Academy is both more and less than a trade union for painters, sculptors and archi-

tecs. The presidency is a role of more splendour than power; has neither a salary nor even an office to go with it. Yet much is expected of a president, and very much will be expected of Mr de Grey, because his predecessor, Sir Hugh Casson, filled the post with such panache and presided over such great changes in the Academy's activities. Under his regime, the last traces of the atmosphere of an exclusive and complacent West End club were chased away. The number of exhibitions - many of the highest quality and interest - rose from a couple a year to a dozen or more. Unprecedented support has been drummed up from commercial sponsors and, through the new Friends scheme, the general public.

It would be impossible for any successor to ape Sir Hugh's performance and it is unnecessary for one to try. The eye of the public has been caught and the Academy set on a new course. A period of consolidation, and slightly less galvanic output of energy, would be quite natural. There would be no harm in taking stock a little. Without losing its original syndicalist character as a small workers' commune, the Academy has developed into a showplace which has to keep the show rolling to keep itself solvent. It has become an example of self-help calculated to gladden the heart of any Minister for the Arts, following the example of most of the big American art museums in actively going out to secure a constituency of support and goodwill. As such, it may find itself used by the Government as a stick for beating the great subsidized galleries.

The danger is in pursuing popularity at the expense of content. The state museums are already inclined to see their role as one of more serious public education. Sir Joshua would have grieved at the imputation of frivolity against his Academy. It would be a pity if the high scholarly quality of the exhibitions declined, or if the fast and furious show at the front of Burlington House became further alienated from the dedicated unseen work of the Academy school behind. (There has been an alienation, perhaps inevitable, since the days of primal amateurism when every Academician was required to teach in the school, regardless of capacity, and Turner used to prepare lectures meticulously, with exquisite illustrative sketches, but mumbled so much that he could not be heard, and was apt to mislay his notes in cabs beforehand.)

Sir Hugh Casson did not greatly develop his role as spokesman for the arts in controversy, and indeed it is a task to be exercised with great tact if pomposity is to be avoided. The Academy's record as arbiter of taste is perhaps the least happy aspect of its history. At some periods this role can best be expressed implicitly through its exhibitions and other activities (today in its summer exhibitions it gives expression to a healthy catholicity of style). But it would be a pity if the Academy ever wholly abandoned the idea that part of its function is to comment on the state of the visual arts in this country, and to identify and express a serious commitment to the highest standards.

Insurance against housebreaking

From the Secretary General of the British Insurance Association

Sir, Mr Poulton (December 5) is wrong to say that insurance companies are not interested in efforts made by the community to prevent crime. Indeed the British Insurance Association, through its "Beat the burglar" campaign, has provided a great deal of information, and financial support in the interests of domestic crime prevention. We are closely associated in this activity with police forces and crime-prevention panels.

It is, of course, the policyholder who will ultimately benefit from neighbourhood watch schemes, mainly from the greater peace of mind that they can encourage, but also financially if lower property losses enable insurance companies to maintain rates at present levels.

It must not be forgotten, however, that it is not just the frequency of claims that is significant but the cost of each one and it is a fact that the average cost of settling a house-content claim has more than doubled in five years.

There is also the practical point that, to be sure of their effectiveness, each scheme, and there must be thousands in existence, would have to be monitored, which would represent a unduly heavy administrative burden. There would also be problems in clearly identifying each scheme, many of which cover a few streets only.

Yours faithfully,
R BARDELL, Secretary General,
British Insurance Association,
Alderman House,
Queen Street, EC4,
December 6.

Those in favour

From Mr J. L. Linsley Hood

Sir, You publish today (December 3) the result of a survey of 2,000 adults, carried out by NOP, which showed that a majority were not in favour of the use of physical violence for political ends.

However, turning these statistics around I was disturbed to discover that, of those questioned, 28 per cent failed to condemn the membership, in political parties, of those who believed in the violent overthrow of governments; 26 per cent failed to condemn trade union action which might force a British government to resign; and 17 per cent were not specifically opposed to a situation in which political violence forced a government to call a general election.

Has this always been the case, or is this a new development in our national attitudes?
Yours faithfully,
J. L. LINSLEY HOOD,
Robins,
Greaway,
West Monkton,
Taunton, Somerset,
December 3.

Tests for Libyans

From the Director of the Lord's Taverners

Sir, The master mariner's letter of December 5 complaining about the lack of engineering textbooks in British Council's overseas libraries is fully supported by my experience.

When I was head of the British Naval Mission to Libya in 1970 I couldn't believe my eyes when browsing through the council's library in Tripoli. There on the shelf for Libyan consumption was the complete history of Test matches between England and Australia.

Although a cricket enthusiast myself, I thought it was stretching it a bit to buy an expensive book on cricket for Gaddafi's followers. The British Council's purchasing policy for their overseas councils is highly questionable.

ANTHONY SWAINSON
(Master mariner),
Director,
The Lord's Taverners,
1 Chester Street, SW1,
December 5.

Coping with squatters

From Mr J. J. S. Davidson

Sir, The Reverend R. G. N. Plant (November 16), who described the appropriation by squatters of a parishioner's home, appears never to have heard of section 7 of the Criminal Law Act 1977. This makes it an offence for anyone who is on premises as a trespasser after having entered as such to refuse to leave when asked to do so by the occupier.

Failing, local police action he could bring a civil action in damages against the chief constable. I remain, yours faithfully,
J. J. S. DAVIDSON,
Davidson, Mearns and Company,
Solicitors,
64 New Cavendish Street, W1.

Offputting register

From the Director General of the Engineering Employers' Federation

Sir, The Social Security Bill, which is now entering its committee stage in the House of Commons, contains an amazing proposal for the establishment of a public register for occupational pension schemes. Not only is a register completely unnecessary, its establishment would be contrary to at least three strands of Government policy - namely, to encourage the provision of occupational pensions; to remove unnecessary administrative burdens from employers; and to reduce the number of civil servants.

The register is said to be a "good thing" because it would help to secure compliance with the Bill's disclosure requirements; because it would help to deter fraud or negligence; because it would facilitate comparison between schemes; and because it would provide a body of pension information to the Government (and occupation for

Lessons to learn on public spending

From Lord Barnett

Sir, I write to strongly agree with my old PAC (Public Accounts Committee) colleague, Peter Horden, MP (December 4) on the need for the Cabinet to find a better way of making public-expenditure decisions. He is absolutely right to propose the idea of a Cabinet committee "to consider all Government expenditure and its value to society."

I had hoped that succeeding governments could have learned from my own painful experience as Chief Secretary to the Treasury between 1974 and 1979. But decisions are clearly still being made on a rushed, "ill-thought basis."

"Sharing the misery" continues to substitute for a rational choice of priorities.

Willie Whitelaw's "Star Chamber" committee does not help, other than making short-term choices to enable the Cabinet to bring difficult problems to a conclusion. Indeed, Mr Whitelaw, his committee and the Cabinet itself were obviously unaware of the choice of priorities agreed by Peter Rees, the Chief Secretary, and Sir Keith Joseph.

This is because of the way the system works. I can recall a similar occasion, although involving rather larger sums. I had been seeking expenditure cuts of £1,500m from the late and sadly missed, Tony Crosland, then Secretary of State for the Environment. At the start of our "bilateral" discussions Tony "offered" cuts of £1,000m, primarily from capital expenditure in such areas as water and sewage.

In theory, I could have argued that it was a bad choice of priorities, but he was the responsible minister and, with my major problem of

achieving the target set for me by Cabinet, it would have been foolhardy in the extreme to have a row over a departmental minister's own choice of priorities.

I imagine a similar situation arose when Peter Rees was "offered" £33m by Sir Keith Joseph, although I would have thought that at least both of them, as experienced politicians, would have been aware of the eventual consequences that would inevitably flow from their agreement. They should have known, but as I have indicated, neither Mr Whitelaw nor the Cabinet would have known anything at all about the choice of priorities made by their two colleagues.

This is a crazy way of planning public expenditure, whether there are increases or reductions in a given year. Towards the end of my period in office I suggested to the Prime Minister, James Callaghan, that there should be just the kind of Cabinet committee that Peter Horden proposed in his letter, to consider priorities in public expenditure.

The Prime Minister accepted my suggestion and set up a Cabinet committee. Unfortunately, the general election prevented us having more than a couple of meetings.

Whatever view one may hold about the present Government's choice of priorities it would be in the wider public interest if the Prime Minister re-established such a committee. It would be much better than another "Star Chamber". It would, at least, ensure that the Cabinet made its decisions knowing all the facts.

Yours sincerely,
JOEL BARNETT,
House of Lords,
December 5.

Advertising on BBC

From the Chairman of Granada Television

Sir, In today's Times (November 28) you report that an enterprising advertising agency has commissioned a poll which has come up with the information that the majority of the public would prefer a limited number of advertisements on BBC television to an increase in the licence fee.

This is not surprising. Nor would it be surprising if the public expressed a preference for a tax of a fraction of a penny on each gallon of petrol to an increase of 40 per cent in the motor vehicle licence. If, however, the public were informed that the hidden price of avoiding paying vehicle tax was more lead in the petrol, and of avoiding an increase in the television licence fee was a drop in the quality of their programmes, they might then vote differently.

All experienced broadcasters know that the introduction of advertising on BBC television is bound to lead to a struggle for revenue since there is not enough available to support more than one

of the two major broadcasting systems.

For D'Arcy MacManus Masius to use Channel 4 as an example of how competition does not affect quality is, of course, sheer effrontery because, as we all know, there is no competition for revenue between ITV and Channel 4. The Government rightly decided that all advertising should be sold exclusively by ITV in order to ensure that each British broadcasting service would be complementary rather than competitive.

If the BBC were to have only five minutes of advertising each evening the result could be a drop of £110m in the annual revenue of ITV. The profits of the ITV system in the last year were less than £100m before levy and tax. Thus the struggle would be for survival and not for a share of the icing on the cake. So the BBC could have advertising but the viewer could not at the same time have *The Jewel in the Crown* or *Brideshead Revisited* from Granada.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS FORMAN, Chairman,
Granada Television,
Manchester,
November 28.

earliest hope of a harvest is next August, if it rains in March - but in some areas there has been no rain for three years.

Yours faithfully,
BRIGID CROFTON,
Haldon,
St Giles Hill,
Winchester, Hampshire,
November 29.

Ordination of women

From the Bishop of Birmingham

Sir, Fr Farnold deserves our gratitude for his timely reminder (November 26) that the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England are both committed to positive steps to return to full communion. He comments that (from the Roman Catholic point of view) the recent decision of General Synod to proceed towards the ordination of women to the priesthood seems a backward step.

It may be helpful to point out that how we see things depends on where we stand. The question of women's ordination provides a good example of this general truth.

Anglicans (in contrast to Roman Catholics) who have arrived where they are now with regard to women's ordination after much heart-searching and sometimes through painful conflict, can be forgiven if they, in their turn, see the publication of *Inter insigniores* by authority from Rome, without any recourse to synodical process, also as a backward step.

Would it not perhaps be better, so far as return to full communion is concerned, if we begin by recognising that each Church has to do what it has to do?
Yours faithfully,
THOMAS BIRMINGHAM,
Bishop of the City,
Old Church Road,
Harborne, Birmingham,
November 27.

Taking exception to Church poll

From the Director of Church Society

Sir, The Archbishop of York (December 1) objects to the Gallup poll on current religious attitudes because, in the first place, it is commissioned by Church Society which, he claims, is representative of an extreme wing of the Church of England. The doctrinal basis of Church Society is the same as that of the Church of England - the 39 Articles of Religion.

The subjects to be covered by the poll were discussed, but the drafting of the questions was left to the Gallup organization, who conferred not only with Church Society, but with theologians of other traditions. Our concern was simply to know the facts about the present doctrinal and moral state of the Church of England. Such a survey was felt to be necessary and in the interests of all.

The Archbishop also takes exception to the poll because he thinks that in principle theological subjects cannot be reduced to simple questions. This is a fundamental objection which would apply not merely to this poll but to any poll.

We do not believe that theology is such a tender plant that it can only be grown in academic groves. If Christian beliefs defied clear and simple expression, as the Archbishop suggests, it is doubtful whether Christianity would ever have made its way in the world at all. Our Lord frequently addressed simple questions to his hearers. "What think ye of Christ?" he asked his disciples. "Is he David's son or David's Lord?" or again, "John's baptism, is it from heaven or of men?"

If it is argued that such questions should never be asked then we are saying that Christian beliefs are a matter for silence rather than speech. I wonder whether that is not the blind alley down which the qualifications and hesitations of modern modern theology are leading the Church.

Finally, the Archbishop fears that the poll will lead to unnecessary polarization. What we seek is not polarization, but clarification where now there is confusion and bewilderment.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID N. SAMUEL, Director,
Church Society,
Whitefield House,
186 Kensington Park Road, SE11,
December 3.

Student grants

From the Registrar and Secretary of the University of East Anglia

Sir, In 1981 the University of East Anglia, in common with many others, was faced by the need to make substantial cuts. The Council, of which Mr Couits (December 5) is a member, reacted by undertaking a detailed review of activities designed, in particular, to protect academic excellence so far as was possible.

Mr Couits mentions his inability, as a member of the council, to obtain any cutback in the level of non-teaching expenditure. In fact, in the three years since 1981 the council has approved reductions in non-teaching expenditure of just under £1m per annum in current prices, or about 15 per cent, involving the loss of some 55 posts.

In the same period the academic departments of the university have been required to make cuts averaging 10 per cent. Within that figure the council has nevertheless been able to approve increases in areas such as electronic engineering and computer science where universities are currently being urged to concentrate their development.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL G. E. PAULSON,
ELLIS,
Registrar and Secretary,
University of East Anglia,
The Registry,
Norwich,
Norfolk,
December 6.

Book production costs

From Mr Stuart Henderson

Sir, British book printers will be astonished by Bryan Appleyard's article (November 26) commenting on current book production costs. British printers have become increasingly competitive in the last four years, winning back trade from abroad and, by using much of the available new technology, have held prices well below inflation levels.

Production costs of books represent about 15 per cent to 20 per cent of the retail price. Of this proportion, paper will be between 30 per cent for short-run novels and 70 per cent for popular paperbacks. A novel selling at £8.95 in 1983 was likely to have cost about £1.35 to produce, of which paper will have been about 50p. At present this cost at worst might have risen by 20p - 5p for the printer and 15p for paper. Costs of distribution and retailing are high and margins slim.

VAT, if imposed, would certainly be another heavy blow. The printer and papermaker should not, however, be used as the publisher's Aunt Sally.

Yours faithfully,
STUART HENDERSON,
Communications Director,
British Printing Industries Federation,
11 Bedford Row, WC1,
November 26.

Crowd control

From Mr C. J. Williams

Sir, The solution to the problem of how to conduct a meeting of British Telecom's shareholders (letter, December 1) is obvious - hold a phone-in!

Yours faithfully,
C. J. WILLIAMS,
Barton Steps,
Newtown,
Bradford-on-Avon,
Wiltshire,
December 2.

EL MANNIN
varied writer

10, 11
Travel: Wonderful wildlife
on safari in Tanzania;
Skiing in the French Alps;
Travel News: Making
the most of Malta

13
Values: Offbeat ideas for
children's Christmas
presents; Drink: Last
minute mail-orders;
Eating Out for shoppers

THE TIMES Saturday

14, 15
Family Life tests board
games; In the Garden;
Bridge; Chess; Crossword;
Review; Classical
records; Galleries; Dance

17, 18
Guide to London's panto
season; The Week:
Critics' guide to TV, Music,
Opera, Theatre, Films
Radio, Auctions and Sport

8-14 DECEMBER 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

It takes more than a shopping
trolley, some glue and a few
bits of wood to make your own
aircraft - but they are a start.

Ronald Faux meets the dogged
dreamers following in the
slipstream of the Wright brothers

Homely flights of fancy

Resting gently on
its nose, like a bird
forfeiting for in-
sects, Don Fore-
man's aeroplane
resembles no other.
It might have
drifted down from outer space.
Pencil sleek, wings swept
severely back, engine moulded
into the rear of the fuselage, it
perches on two slimly bowed
undercarriage legs. A small
canard wing sprouts across its
nose like a stiffly waxed
moustache. But for all its
unconventional looks on the
ground, in the air the plane will
cruise along at 170mph doing
the road equivalent of 50 miles
to the gallon.

The Rutan Vari-EZ from the
United States, together with its
revolutionary relatives, has
brought a new air of elegance to
light aviation. The plastic foam
construction is doing for small
planes what glass fibre has done
for sailing craft - more strength
for less weight and much easier
maintenance.

Mr Foreman completed the
aircraft in about a year and
went on to build his big brother,
the Long-EZ, which has an even
more spectacular performance,
a cruising speed of 190mph
coupled with a range of 1,300
miles. Bert Rutan, the designer
of this Pegasus among planes,
set a new light aircraft record by
flying one of them non-stop
from Alaska to Florida, a
distance of 4,800 miles. He used
the space normally occupied by
the passenger seat for extra fuel.

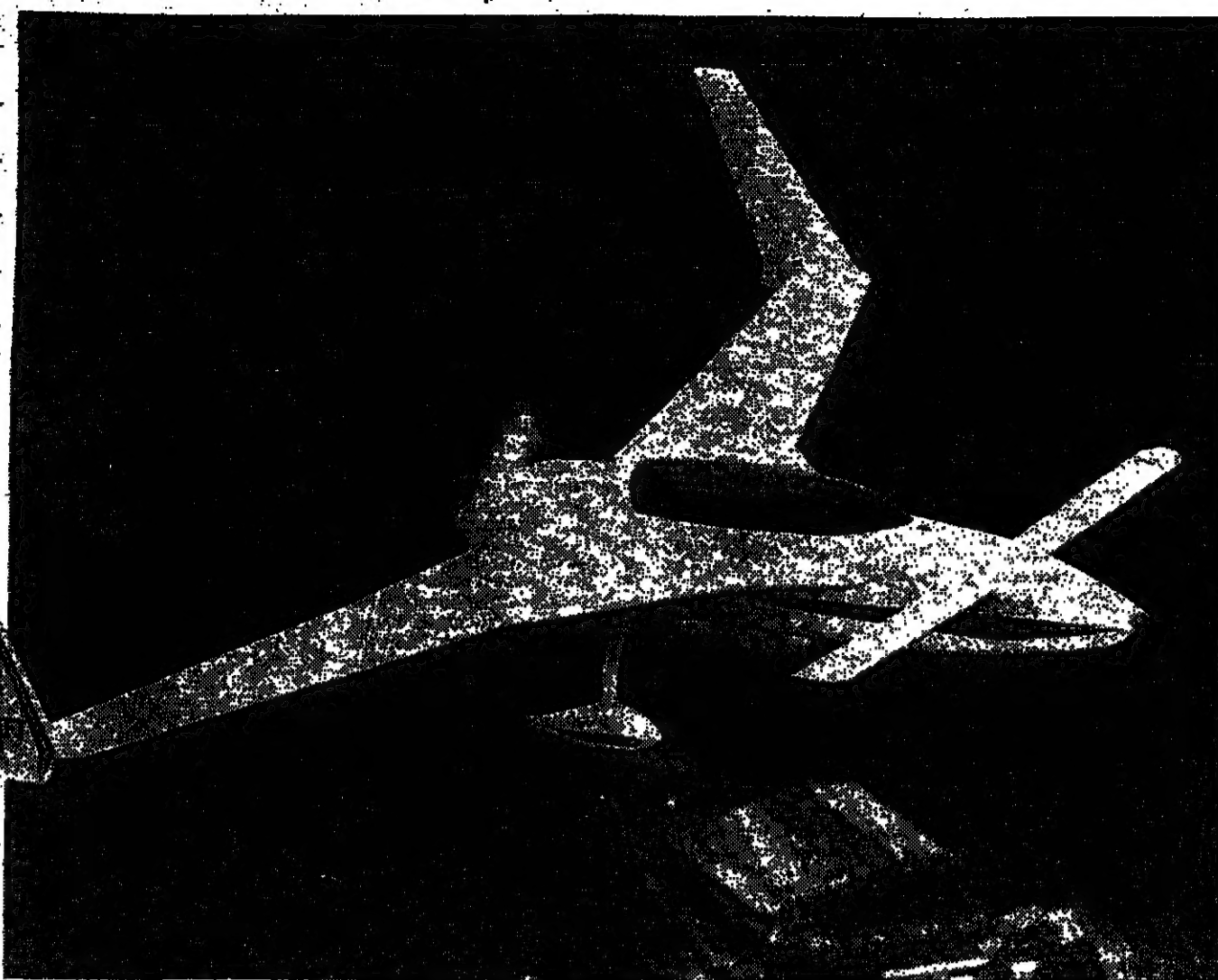
The implications for enthusiasts
seeking to build their own
aircraft, Mr Foreman believes,
are now formidable.
The strength of the new
materials relative to their
weight is on a ratio of three to
one compared with the usual
spruce spars; perhaps more
important for the home builder,
the planes are much faster to
build. A wing that once took six
months to complete can now be

finished in seven
days and would
have twice the
strength, Mr Fore-
man claims. Air-
craft that once
demanded thou-
sands of hours spread over nine
or ten years could now be
finished in 18 months: the
flying man would be ready to
take off in his magnificent
machine, which would have a
finish unblemished by the rivets
or skeletal ribs that disturb a
perfectly smooth airflow.

For most people, flying is
simply the fastest way of getting
from where they are to where
they want to be: orderly, swift
transport that may give a brief
and entirely incidental glimpse
of the hazy earth 30,000ft
below. The notion of climbing
into an aircraft built in an attic
or garage might appear to be quite
as lethal as amateur brain
surgery.

Not so to the ranks of
enthusiasts who dismiss the
most advanced jet airliner as a
mere "blow lamp". Because
aviation has become so
bounded by rules and regu-
lations, largely necessary in a
small and overcrowded air-
space, they seek to recreate a
pioneering approach - flying for
sensation rather than con-
venience and devoting years to
building an aircraft for thera-
peutic pleasure rather than for
what it will eventually be worth.

There are about 1,000 tyro
aviators or qualified pilots in
Britain at the moment building
their own aircraft. The whiff of
glue, resin or dope is drifting
across the face of many a
marriage. Cars freeze at the
curbide because the garage is
occupied by a fledgling wing.
The aircraft range from improb-
able designs with little chance
ever of flying, to superbly
finished machines that most
certainly will. For some people
the greatest pleasure lies in the



years of patient construction
devoted to transforming a
technical drawing into some-
thing which flies. For others
"home building" an aircraft is
the only financially viable way
of taking up an otherwise costly
sport.

The popular flying association
(PFA), which guides and
monitors the activities of
amateur aircraft builders, rep-
resents the grass roots of
traditional aviation. Its inspec-
tors are based in every region of
Britain and at various stages
during construction will check
the work and certify that it is to
standard. Branches of the PFA,
known appropriately as struts,
give mutual support to builders
who are often not highly skilled
as carpenters, metal workers or
engine mechanics.

"The most important quality
is a kind of doggedness of spirit,
to keep going when nothing
seems to fit and there seems
precious little progress. You
have to enjoy watching the
airplane slowly emerge and
unless you are exceptional you
can reckon on taking twice as
long as it says on the instruc-
tions. You get out what you put
in", one home builder told me.

He had started with an
unlimited ambition to fly but
with strictly limited means. "I
thought about hang gliding first
but using my legs as an
undercarriage put me off. Micro-
light aircraft were the next
step up, but they seemed to be
having a lot of problems at the
time, what with accidents and
impending legislation. The
aircraft that the PFA promotes
certainly looked a lot more
substantial, they have a better



Plane living: Long EZ built and flown by Don Foreman,
a businessman from Kent, with building plans (top); Mr Foreman
(left) and David Machin building a similar aircraft at Mr Machin's
home control console (bottom)

range and they are less de-
pendent upon the weather. I chose
one of them", he said.
The range of aircraft for
which plans can be bought is
impressively varied. Some
come in kit form, others have to
be made up from raw materials
straight from the plans, but PFA
inspectors watch over the
emergence of anything from a
replica 1911 Curtiss Headless
Pusher, which has the appear-
ance of five-barred gates bolted
together, to the futuristic
elegance of the Rutan designs.

There are scaled-down rep-
licas of First and Second World
War fighters that fly nimbly.
Mustangs and Hurricanes in
wartime livery, a Spitfire to

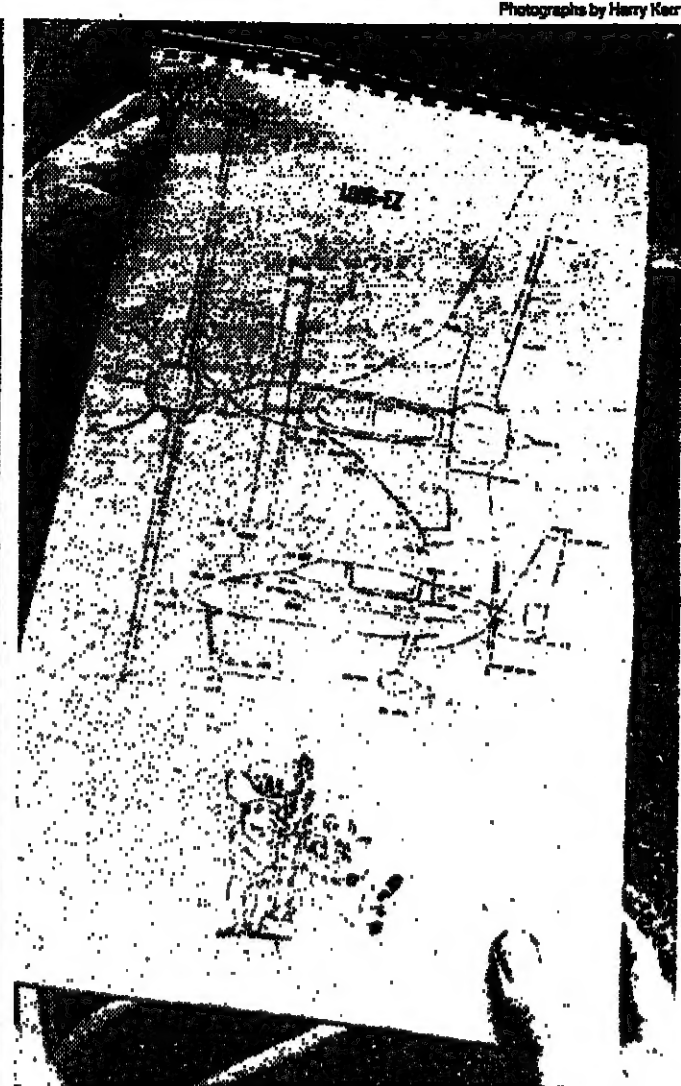
and assembled ready to fly in
two minutes.

Some favourites have been
established such as the Turbu-
lent and the Taylor Monoplane,
both delightfully simple aircraft
that look the part of the home-
built plane. There is also a
popular "take-home" machine
called a Fred, the plans for
which can be bought for £20
from an address in Oklahoma.

Recalling the five years he
spent building a Fred, one
enthusiast was obliged con-
stantly to strive to keep costs
down and adapted two scooter
wheels as the main undercar-
riage. The tail wheel came from
an abandoned shopping trolley
(the find left him with three
spares) and was braced against
two bed springs. On the maiden
flight one of the rudder pedals
tore free from its single piano
hinge but was quickly replaced.

Watching the test pilot take
the aircraft up for the first time
clearly thrilled the builder. "I
could remember filling my first
piece of metal and sawing the
first piece of wood five years
earlier. Now there it was at the
end of the runway and it
actually flew."

Traditional builders move at
a slower pace than the seasons.
They are apt to talk about the
year of the wings, the year of the
fuselage, the summer of frantic
fabricating and doping, trying to
finish ahead of the cooler
autumn temperatures and the
winter of the engine. "Man
needs something to pit his wits
against", declared another stoic
pilot who spent seven years
building an aircraft which he
flew for nine hours. Then the
engine stopped and he crashed



into a field at 100mph. He was
unhurt and spent the following
summer repairing his plane.

Another enthusiast from the
North asked me not to use his
name but offered his experience
as a warning of the wrong way
to go about building an
aeroplane. "I was seduced by
the sales literature for a two-
seater model from America. It
was an ultra-light and from the
specification seemed to be
exactly what I was after. The
main attraction was that it
would only take six months to
build and I swallowed the lot,
paid out £3,300 and waited for
it to arrive."

It took a while to reach him
from the United States and
when it did the problems
started almost at once. The first
was completely unexpected, a
villainously bloodshot eye and
hands that swelled into large,
weeping blisters. "I could not
touch anything and water
dripped from them. I had to
wear three pairs of gloves", he
recalled. His allergic reaction to
the fibre glass resins never really
healed in the three years it took
to build the aircraft.

Parts of the kit did not fit and
had to be adapted or reshaped
and the project turned into a
slow slog against time as the
new legislation of micro-light
planes was approaching, remov-
ing much of the freedom the
planes had enjoyed until that
time.

By then he had got a pilot's
licence and he took his new,
rugged looking aircraft down to
his local airfield. Fitting the
huge oblong wings in the

slightest wind was a nightmare
but he managed it and gingerly
taxied the plane along the
runway. "I was going along very
steadily and slowly but the next
thing I knew I was 20ft in the
air. I thought 'I don't know
whether this thing works or not'
and I tried pushing the stick
forward to get back on to the
ground. It made no difference,
nothing happened so I shut the
throttle and it dropped like a
rock, hit the ground and the
nosewheel collapsed."

The same thing happened
three more times and once the
runway not only rushed towards
him but actually started to chew
its way into the cockpit. It
ended with him hanging upside
down but unscathed with the
plane sticking up vertically
from the runway. It now rests in
peace and pieces in his garage,
three years in the building and
six minutes in the air: a
memorial to the wrong course
in aircraft building.

He now reflects: "With
hindsight it is all, of course,
very clear. I would now be very
sceptical about the claims made
in brochures. First of all decide
exactly what you want from
flying and what you can afford
in terms of time and cash. Find
a proven design with a good,
safe track record and if possible
fly one before you finally
commit yourself. If it is a kit,
make sure the supplier has an
established trading record and
that the type is approved by or
at least known to the PFA. If I'd
done that I would be a happier
man and I would now have an
aircraft I could actually fly."

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Building up to the moment of take-off

Don Foreman is now preparing to build his
third Rutan aircraft, the Defiant, a twin-
engine machine of great elegance and high
performance. He expects the work to take
him two years and to cost between £20,000
and £30,000. "The point is that at the end I
will have an aircraft worth between
£120,000 and £130,000."

The cost of building varies enormously,
depending on choice of aircraft and means.
A single-seat light plane powered by a
converted Volkswagen car engine could be
completed for just over £1,000; a two-seat
trainer-tourer with a new Rolls Royce
continental engine could be as much as
£3,500.

Don Foreman admitted that his Vari-EZ
would cost between £5,000 and £7,000 to
build, including instruments and radio. The
price of a Long-EZ is between £10,000 and
£15,000, depending on instruments and
engine. It would take between 1,500 and
2,000 man hours to complete but eventually
be worth more than £30,000.

He says the Rutan plans were easy to
follow and did not require special skills.
Working with plastic meant that a
workshop with stable heating and humidity
were essential but the saving in time from
building in glass fibre was worth the
preparation. Resins had been developed
that no longer made the eyes red or the
hands blistered.

But how safe are these extraordinary and
stylish aircraft? Don Foreman agreed that
some home-built designs did require more
than ordinary skill to fly but the Rutan
Long-EZ, for example, was in a different
class. The smaller Canard wing on the nose
defended the main wing against a stall
while the main wingtip fins prevented the
aircraft from spinning. Thus two of the
main dangers in flying light aircraft were
removed. "It is the design worked out by
the Wright Brothers and they did indeed
get it right", he said.

The guide and governing body for
amateur aircraft-builders is the Popular

Flying Association (PFA), founded in 1946.
Run by aviation enthusiasts for aviation
enthusiasts, it is based at Terminal
Building, Shoreham Airport, Shoreham-by-
Sea, West Sussex (07517 61616). It lists
more than 100 types of aircraft, 39 of them
PFA-approved, including single and twin
seaters and amphibians.

Membership costs £12 a year. There is
no fee for the inspections carried out during
the building programme. An initial permit
to fly costs £82 or £164 depending on the
size of the aircraft; renewals are £41 or £82.

Projects are registered with the associa-
tion and each has a logbook which is kept
up to date for the PFA inspector who will
check the building at various stages. When
the aircraft is ready to fly and has satisfied
all its criteria, the PFA is empowered by
the Civil Aviation Authority to issue a
permit to fly. This imposes rather tighter
restrictions on the use of the aircraft, but is
substantially cheaper than a certificate of
airworthiness issued by the CAA.

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TRAVEL 1

Shona Crawford Poole finds wildlife, Masai mudhuts and a conservation dilemma on safari in Tanzania

Where man and beast see eye to eye

A running leopard, close and cross, is an indelibly beautiful sight. It leapt into the beam of the Land-Rover's headlights and ran a short way up the road before slinking into the undergrowth. A tuft of its tail twitched among the leaves and its face, half-shadowed, looked out with a steady wide-eyed gaze. I suppose we had given it a fright, but the excitement was mutual.

When the dry season comes to an end, grass, animals and their spare Masai herdsmen are

forbidden to plant crops or build permanent houses within the conservation area — although there is official encouragement for them to do both in other places. Were they getting an unnecessary hard deal?

I think it was this question which resulted in an invitation to visit a Masai village where it was plain to see that people were healthy, well fed and not seething with discontent.

Chief Ngaitai's seven wives and their 40 or so children — he was not sure of the exact number — live in a group of small thatched houses built of wattle and dung. The toddlers wear bells on their ankles in case they stray too far from the women and older girls who sit out in the sunshine making their distinctive beaded collars and shawing each other's heads.

From one of the houses came a bellowing, masculine cough. Chief Ngaitai emerged from the home of his third and favourite wife wearing a blanket, wellingtons and a woollen hat. In terms of wealth he is an important man. He is also the elected spokesman for his area and much respected.

An invitation to talk inside the house was not to be refused. The entrance is low, labyrinthine. Blind in the blackness I was guided by a dry unseen hand around the glow of embers on the floor. It smelled marvelously of woodsmoke. Small holes in the outside walls let in no more than a chink of light. The hard leather platform offered as a seat turned out to be the chief's bed and his shoes were wedged in a crack between the bed and a dividing wall of woven wood polished by passing hands.

His favourite wife, my "fellow mama" they said, prepared tobacco for him while he talked of cattle, of customs and of the dialogue with the conservators.

In the Serengeti the conservators' work is very different. Professional poachers and lack of funds to fight them mean that the wardens and rangers are short of boots and knapsacks as well as radios and sophisticated surveillance equipment. The shortages allow poaching to increase but these are not the shortages that visitors first remark. Lightbulbs, ice, and mineral water cannot be more important than rhinos but they are more quickly missed.

Tanzanians are not easy people to rile. In the distribution of the world's good nature and good manners they have been given a generous share.

Only one subject winds up every Tanzanian I met and that is the unresolved border dispute with Kenya. What sticks in the Tanzanian craw is the way Kenya persists in perpetuating an impression that some of the earth's finest wildlife resources, the Serengeti plain and the



Zebra crossing: Tanzania offers the best wildlife viewing in Africa

Ngorongoro crater are Kenya's. They are not.

Tanzanians accuse Kenya of misrepresenting Tanzania's assets as her own. They say that it happens all the time. Attentive viewers of *The Natural World* programme about Kenya broadcast on BBC 2 on Sunday evening may have noted an instance for themselves.

Quarrels between neighbours and former partners are not easy to make up. Tourism thrived on co-operation while Tanzania and Kenya were partners with Uganda in the East African Community. Then Nairobi was the principal safari centre and the majority of Tanzania's visitors crossed the land border on Kenyan packages using Kenyan vehicles.

When the community broke up in 1977, the border was shut. Now it is open again but access to tourist vehicles is still strictly limited. So the old safari routes driving south and west from Nairobi are no longer accessible on any great scale. Negotiations between the two countries sputter and start and in the meantime Tanzania struggles alone to fill its pockets with tourist gold.

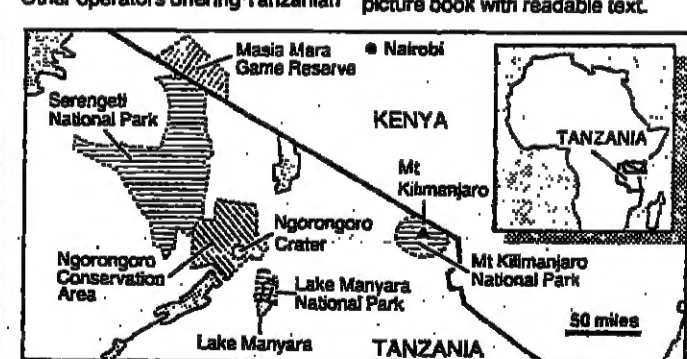
TRAVEL NOTES

The Tanzania Tourist Corporation has offices at 77 South Audley Street, London W1 (01-499 7727). It offers promotional literature including leaflets on all the state-run lodges and services on and off the safari circuit.

A package tour has a lot to recommend it in Tanzania unless your budget will stretch to a very luxurious safari with a specialist operator. In a country where flights are cancelled without warning and telephone communication is patchy and often impossible, it is more useful if the travel arrangements are someone else's worry. There is probably not much any tour operator can do when changes of itinerary are forced upon him, by breakdowns and shortages but hotel beds and meals paid for in advance will be provided somewhere at no extra cost to the packaged traveller.

Speedbird Holidays offers a week long Serengeti safari in Tanzania with flights to Nairobi by British Airways and from there to Kilimanjaro by Air Tanzania, with a further beach or safari week spent in Kenya. Prices start at £365. Other operators offering Tanzanian

packages include Exodus Expeditions, KLM, Twickers World, Abercrombie and Kent, Kuoni, and Encounter Overland. Tanzania's water is drinkable but health precautions of various kinds are necessary. Medicines of every type are for practical purposes, unobtainable in Tanzania so be sure to pack everything you are likely to need. Yellow fever, cholera, typhoid and polio immunization is recommended and malaria pills should be started two weeks before arriving in the country. Protection against hepatitis is worth considering. All the state run lodges and hotels are being renovated and standards vary from clean and well run to drab and dirty. Ask for another room if you are visited by cockroaches. Food in the game parks follows a pretty monotonous meat and two veg school dinners pattern except for the meat which is tougher, tastier and often game. Tanzanian wine is undrinkable. Safari beer is excellent, £2 a bottle everywhere for everyone, and the only really efficient thing in the country. It is always cold. *East Africa* by Nina Casimati, published by Travelaid, £4.95, is a good basic guide book. *Journey Through Tanzania* by Amin, Willets and Marshall published by Bodley Head, £19.95, is a coffee table picture book with readable text.



What a day it had been. Only minutes before, the lights had caught two magnificent maned young lions striking Trafalgar Square poses at the roadside. Their lion coloured eyes were a perfect match for their coats and they were less than 10ft away. On a parched tawny plain they would have been invisible, but approaching the rim of the Ngorongoro crater the altitude was nearing 5,500 ft. Lush greenery dripped moisture. Tanzania was looking much like darkest Hampshire on a wet summer's night.

Driving from Lake Manyara and the first in a chain of lodges that stretches across the northern game parks, there had been elephants, ostriches, a rhinoceros, and the Lake Manyara lions that sleep in trees with paws and tails hanging loosely from the branches. The first lengthened with wildebeest, zebras, cape buffalo, monkeys, baboons, giraffes, waterbuck, warthogs, vultures, and an owl of particularly striking aspect.

Cheetahs, hyenas, jackals and many more species would wait for the days ahead. Already Tanzania was justifying its claim of offering the best wildlife viewing in Africa.

Next morning the crater rim was in cloud, hiding from view the eighth wonder of the world, its largest intact volcanic caldera. There were free-range eggs for breakfast, a blessing the Third World can count on, and no hot water for bathing, which is almost as predictable.

Armed with cameras and

collapsible cardboard picnic boxes filled with zebra sandwiches, which are very tasty, visitors trickle into the crater in low gear, shedding sweaters as they drop 2,000 feet. On parallel paths great herds of cattle pick their way down narrow tracks. The humped zebu cattle are white, brown, black and brindled and as lean as antelopes.

When the dry season comes to an end, grass, animals and their spare Masai herdsmen are

sepia tinted with parched earth. There is a muffled drumming of hooves as they pass in a dusty swirl. It is an imposing picture.

After the cattle have drunk from pools in the crater floor and licked its salt, they will be driven up over the edge again leaving its 100 square miles to the wild animals and those who come to look at them.

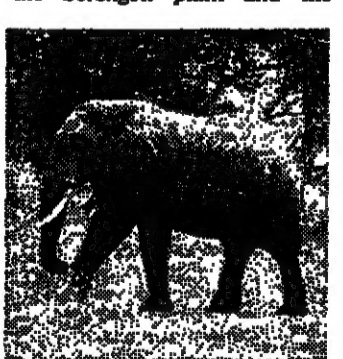
At an average selling price of £300 each in the local monthly livestock markets, we could be looking at cattle worth as much as a million pounds to their Masai owners. We are certainly looking at one of the great conservation dilemmas, the overlapping and usually conflicting needs of wild and human life.

Tribesmen, tourists and conservators alike have severely limited access to the crater. Joseph ole Kuwai, its chief conservation officer, plans to move his headquarters away from the crater's edge to a place where his staff and their families, nearly 1,000 people, can grow vegetables and lead a less restricted life.

The nomadic Masai are



Happy wanderer: Mzee Kirenyimwa, typical of the Masai



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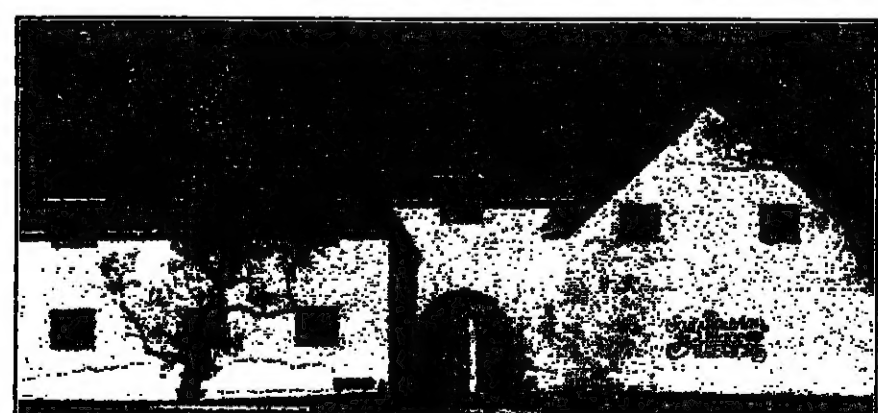
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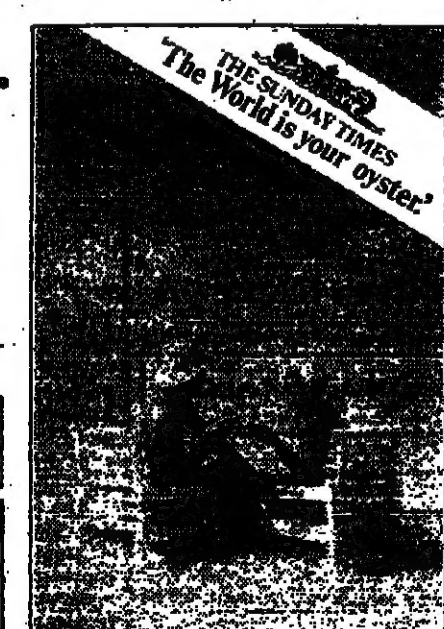


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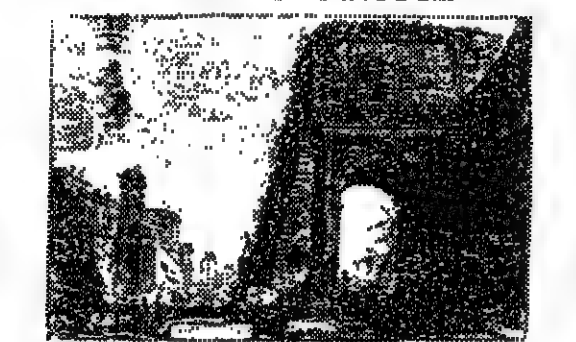
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Beryl Downing on unusual gifts for children

VALUES

All presents and correct

Play is too serious to be left to children. Take away the television and they would be happy with a cardboard box and a broom handle, so shall we be honest and admit that all toys are aimed at adults?

We all know the Dad-and-dad joke - only now he buys computer games and plays with them on his own. But what about the sappy soft toys and the cute babywears? The babies couldn't care less but their grannies love them. What about educational toys? They may or may not make a Pythagoras of our progeny, but they are guaranteed to make us feel clever and worthy for having selected them.

Left to themselves, children are choosing this year. Care Bears, Cabbage Patch dolls, any television character and, according to the Good Toy Guide 1985 (Play Matters/The National Toy Libraries Association, £3.95), the same gun and griddle type of toys that they have selected since Santa was in short pants.

The guns this year are represented in the guide by a game featuring the SAS and The Enemy, with a mobile missile launch "to enhance the imaginative possibilities". The modern



Very presentable: Master of the Universe fortress £19.99 with pirate, gypsy and devil masks 49p each

- 0.5** **Evok**: cuddly toy with a difference. Not just a bear or a monkey but Leoni from the film of the Jedi - 8in high with surface-washable synthetic fur. Made in Haiti, not to be given to children aged under three. By Palcoy, £7.50 from Harrods.
- Frog jumping jack**: Jolly green, frog-on-a-stick (illustrated) with a string to pull arms and legs. English made, non-toxic paint, £3.95 (80p p&p) from Oscar's Den, 127 Abbey Road, London NW8 (01-328 6883) and 15 Buckingham Place Road, London SW1 (01-828 8300). Doll and monkey also available.
- Glowspells**: A flat packet containing three sets of luminous letters that glow in the dark for about half an hour - an alphabet of capitals, two of lower case with additional vowels. To place on an existing blackboard. Price £4.95. Also
- Glowstars** - 96 shapes of stars, moons, planets, etc. and rockets to turn a nursery ceiling into a luminous sky at night and encourage children to go to sleep. Price £1.25 by mail from Glowstars, P.O. Box No 4, Solinas Lane, Dagenham, Essex RM8 1SJ (01-552 1171).
- Popoids**: Bandy, stretchy pieces, easy for small hands to pop together. The Punny Faces kit contains a body, hands, huge eyeballs, shoes, bow tie and body pieces. By Tony, recommended age three plus. Price £4.99 (£1.70 p&p) from Tridias, 6 Bennett Street, Bath (0223 314730) and 6 Lichfield Terrace, Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey (01-948 3458). They call the kit "Creatures" in their catalogue.
- Soft Blocks**: Six fabric cubes soft enough for the smallest people to build up and knock down without getting hurt. Colourfully decorated with simple pictures. For ages from six months to two years £5.95 at branches of W. H. Smith and shown in their catalogue of toys chosen by John and Elizabeth Newton of the Child Development Research Unit at Nottingham University.

- 5-10** **Asterix the Gaul**: Plastic models of the French cartoon characters, each with its own accessories. Asterix and Obelix come in one pack with shields and helmets and accompanying wild boars, £4.50. Other single characters are available from £1.99 and the largest pack is a Roman encampment at £22.99. All at Hamleys, 188 Regent Street, London W1 and 45 Milson Street, Bath, Avon.
- Georges**: A friendly-looking computer robot (illustrated) with a top of the head keyboard and synthesized lighting and sound effects. A simple educational introduction to programming - Georges can be given up to 48 commands to move in straight lines or curves, remember where he has been and return to base. Batteries
- Billy Builder**: deluxe Tool Chest: Well-made, hinged box containing hammer, small saw, screwdrivers and other tools, all slotted into swing-away racks (illustrated). By Red Robin Toys, recommended age eight plus, but these tools are sharp, so we are erring on the cautious side. Price £3.95 from branches of John Lewis.
- Bentamp Electronic Keyboard**: At the touch of a button it can be made to sound like an organ, clarinet, violin, piano, harpsichord or glockenspiel and has six rhythms - waltz, swing, slow rock, disco rock, latin and tango. There are 25 keys and the easy play chord computer allows you to record all major, minor, seventh and diminished chords and then play them back. For beginners and experts up to any age. £39.95 from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1 (01-629 1234).
- Fun with Make-Eight**: A 14in cardboard tube containing sheets of cut-out shapes which will make up into eight space models which dock together. Non-toxic glue
- included**. Made by Cardel Designs. £4.75 from the Design Centre shop, 28 Haymarket, London SW1.
- Screen Printing Starter Kit**: Contains a screen frame and squeegee, four tubes of water-based screen ink, 20 sheets of stencil paper, 25 sheets printing cartridge paper, one plain white handkerchief (the links are not
- washable when applied to fabrics**). By Dryad, £5.95 from John Lewis.
- Victorian half-masks**: Lifesize costume masks for dressing up or party going. Among them a devil, gypsy, maid, 49p each. Complete selection of eight different masks £3.75 (£1.70 p&p) from Tridias.
- Research by Nina Ford**

EATING OUT

Close comfort for tired shoppers

As the Christmas shopping marathon gathers pace, we report on four central London feeding stations for the willing consumer.

Those brave souls who face up to the seasonal mayhem in London's central shopping areas probably deserve more for their efforts than just a department store cup of tea. Fortunately, the growing trend towards all-day eating (as a prelude to all-day drinking?) has produced a number of pleasant, reasonably priced restaurants in key areas.

Shoppers in Knightsbridge or Sloane Street will find much to enjoy at Le Metro, a cramped but smartly-furnished wine bar in the shadow of Harrods. The bar is in fact the "breakfast room" for the small, French country style hotel at 28 Basil Street owned by Margaret and David Levin. They also run the stylish Capital Hotel next door, with the result that its much fêted chef, Brian Turner, supervises the lunch and supper menu at Le Metro.

This distinguished connection accounts for Le Metro's accomplished but reasonably priced dishes. Smoked fillet of goose with fricé salad - warm chicken livers - (£2), and a delicate mousse of smoked eel with cucumbers (£1.75) appear among a short list of starters which, together with a cream of

choux pastry filled with hazelnut cream) and expertly prepared coffee, Le Metro will send you back in to the fray in good heart.

You may wish to linger at Le Metro however, once you discover its Croquer machine, a device which allows fine bottles of wine to be opened, and served by the glass, without spoiling the rest of the bottle, or indeed your wallet.

While Le Metro offers breakfast and lunches, but pauses before dinner, the bright and breezy Soho Brasserie operates for almost 14 hours a day and lives up to its French name by offering a comprehensive collection of well-executed meals, from breakfast to all-day snacks and top-of-the-range restaurant dishes.

The dazzling, chrome-crusted bar is fronted by a few tables and chairs for the casse-croûtes - omelettes (with Gruyère or fines herbes), savouries (hot leek tart), salads (chèvre with olives and tomatoes) and soups (cream of mushroom) - while a

smartly-upholstered restaurant at the rear offers more substantial fare.

The menu is modish but sensible, despite the inevitable vegetable terrine, here with a red pepper vinaigrette. Cumberland sausages with apple sauce (£4.25), grilled calves' liver and a daily assortment of fish dishes (perhaps grilled red mullet with tomato sauce, £5.95) should provide more than enough to bridge the gap.

To try the British approach to all-day eating, Covent Garden shoppers should adjourn to Smith's, a brightly converted, spacious basement beneath the Seven Dials art gallery. Smith's offers a three-tiered operation - à la carte and fixed price menus (£5.80 and £6.95) at lunch and dinner, and a mid-afternoon snack/tea and pastry list.

The food is a fairly basic list of grilled meats and fish (sirloin steak, calves' liver with lemon and sage, plaice, trout with mushrooms), together with crusty pies (steak, kidney and mushrooms, £2.95).

Here you might find avocado and cashew nut mousses, fried cucumber and almonds with redcurrant jelly, and braised oxtail. Strapping puddings - whiskey trifle, profiteroles and crème brûlée - and a refreshing array of fragrant teas should give you the strength to cope with the hordes in the Garden. High Street Kensington shoppers can enjoy similarly patriotic meals in Sheppard's,



Scene at Smith's. Drawing by Francis Motley

watercress soup (£1.50), and a plate of quality French cheeses (£1.50) form an excellent range of snacks.

More substantial meals are available - lamb's liver with onions (£4.50), gigot de lotte - aux champignons (£4.25) and splendidly tender lamb slices in a light mustard sauce (£4.25). With a couple of choice puddings (gateau,

a rather coldy coloured basement. Considerable calories can be taken on board, however, in the shape of hot broccoli mousses, huge venison casserole, chicken and mushroom pie and delicious Bakewell tart. The menu operates as a £9.50 prix fixe for three course dinners, and £4.85 for two-course lunches.

Stan Hey

DRINK

A case of the eleventh hour

Struggling home from the supermarket with plastic bags full of bottles may not be the most relaxing method of purchasing Christmas wines, but it is certainly one of the cheapest. Fortunately for those who are either unwilling or unable to visit the supermarkets featured in last week's Christmas wines article, there is still the alternative of traditional mail-order wine merchants. Although most companies have already closed

their Christmas order books there are still a few merchants who are prepared to make deliveries at the eleventh hour.

Adnams, that excellent Southwold wine firm, run by stylish Simon Loftus, can deliver before Christmas, provided you order by Wednesday. This year they are offering

December wines

seven Christmas cases of which the cheapest is the appropriately named Survival Kit (£16) containing three bottles: a Saumur méthode champenoise sparkling - La Grande Marque Brut - an old amontillado sherry, (Adnams Directors' Choice) and Southwold Tawny port.

The Two Rivers case, featuring Rhône and Loire wines, is also reasonably priced at £36 for twelve bottles - six of an '83 Côte de Rhône - the well-made Château du Grand Moulin - and six of an '83 Muscadet de Sevre et Maine - the Fief de la Brie. The contents of their Classic Burgundy case would cheer up any cold, festive spread: six bottles of an '83 Mâcon-Villages - Jean Thévenet's splendid Domaine de la Bon Grout - and six of Aubert de Villaine's (the co-owner of Romanée Conti) equally impressive '82 Bourgogne Rouge - La Digoine. Adnams, Sole Bay Brewery, Southwold, Suffolk (0502 722138).

Bibendum, the Regent's Park wine emporium run by Christopher Collins will also accept Christmas wine orders provided you contact him this week, preferably on Monday but by Thursday at the latest. Bibendum's Christmas Wine Fair is very popular with North Londoners and sells everything from the invaluable and recently improved Pocket Screwpull (at what must be the cheapest price in the country - £6.50), to antique faceted Georgian glass decanters at £60, glasses and wine coolers.

Bibendum's Christmas wines packed in handsome wooden cases are equally tempting and I would be very happy if Father Christmas were to present me with either a case of Warre's superb '77 vintage port (£132.25 per case) or a jeroboam of George Goulet champagne (£166). Worth looking out for as

well, is Gascony's excellent and inexpensive Vin Sauvage fizz; its flowery, passion-fruit bouquet and taste would make a perfect December sparkler (£3.62). Bibendum, 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 (586 9761), minimum order one case.

Magasin Wine Warehouses have organized a free port tasting at all their warehouses (see the list below) for today and tomorrow. There will be five ports available for tasting including Graham's 1978 Late Bottled Vintage (£4.99), and a range of ports from the Portuguese house of Borges & Irmler including a Tawny Port (£3.96) and a single quinta or estate port - the Quinta do Junco 1975. I am much more tempted, however, by their claret tasting which only features one wine, the '82 Château Méaume - a Bordeaux Supérieur from a St. Emilion estate owned by a young Englishman, Alan Johnson Hill and his wife. The Johnson Hills believe in traditional viticulture and modern vinification techniques and like all '82 petit châteaux wines, Méaume displays a good deal more class than other years.

Château Méaume '82 is made predominantly from the Merlot grape and has a big, full purple colour backed up by a rich, ripe, fruity bouquet and palate with some grassy overtones (due to its youth). Priced at just £3.29 per bottle (that's £39.48 for Majestic's minimum order of one case), Méaume '82 is a real December bargain.

Oddbins is another good source of modestly priced December wines and at a recent tasting they showed a range of 11 southern French wines which now account for 22 per cent of their total sales of red wine. The best wine in this inexpensive line-up was a non-vintage red Vin de Pays from the Côteaux de Peyriac (an area that lies in the western zone of the Minervois), made from a mix of typical southern French

Discover the secrets of Cardhu.

This Speyside malt whisky's secrets have been appreciated by malt drinkers since 1824.

Owned by John Walker & Sons Ltd., Cardhu has for many years been the principal malt in the world's most famous blended Scotch whiskies. Johnnie Walker's Red Label and Black Label.

Now it is more widely available as a single malt, matured for 12 years, and presented in an elegant punch decanter based on an authentic 19th century design.

The superb flavour originates from the Cardhu Distillery high in the glens of Strathpey, where the water springing from the icy mountain streams is as pure as the character may best be appreciated after dinner. Taste the bestwood scotch and discover for yourself the delicious secrets of Cardhu.

Cardhu 12 Year Old Highland Malt Whisky

Distilled by CARDHU Distillery, Aberlour, Banffshire, since 1824.

Rioja and Christmas

At Christmas the tradition is of course Roast Turkey, but many choose Goose, Chicken, Duck, Beef or Game. Whatever the fayne, hot or cold, drink a delicious Rioja wine, a velvety red or a dry fruity white. Don't forget those working in the kitchen! A glass of Rioja whilst preparing the family feast is always appreciated.

Explore the wonderful wines of Rioja and find a quality and value that is unequalled.

Look for the little stamp. The hallmark of excellence.

For further information please contact The Rioja Wine Information Centre, Vinos de España, 23 Manchester Square, London W1. Tel. 01-495 6140

"In my youth, motor racing was my passion. Today my greatest love cannot be hurried."

BARON PHILIPPE DE ROTHSCHILD

THE EXPLOITS of the young Baron Philippe de Rothschild are well-known. They are almost as legendary as his wines. It is at his insistence that we bring MOUTON CADET to your attention. The rouge is vintage claret - full, round, fruity and smooth. The blanc, too, is vintage Bordeaux - dry, light and fresh. Both bear more than the commendation of the Baron. He has judged them worthy to bear his name.

Philippe de Rothschild

IN THE GARDEN

Stocking up: Ashley Stephenson chooses presents for horticulturists while Judy Froshaug stays indoors with the best of the games

The list that keeps on growing

When it comes to choosing Christmas presents, gardeners are always easy to please and at prices from a pound or two to several hundred, there is a gift to suit every pocket.

Books on anything from practical gardening to topics of general interest are an obvious choice, and what better time to catch up on reading than the middle of the winter when gardeners have more spare time?

Croom Helm have produced a number of books dealing with specific subjects in recent years. Titles include *Waterlilies* by Philip Swindells, *Growing Begonias* by Eric Catterall, *Growing Cyclamen* by Gay Nightingale and *Growing Hardy Perennials* by Kenneth Becket. Depending upon when they are published they will cost from £6 to £8 each.

Smaller, reasonably priced books which are ideal for the beginner or the gardener wishing to conquer new fields come from Salamander. Guides to alpine, annuals, perennials, bulbs and conifers are good value at under £5 and they have good colour photographs and well written text.

More good books of practical value include a new title, *Camellias*, by Chang Hung Tsai, translated by Bruce Bartholomew (Batsford, £25). The descriptions are clear and the line drawings are, in my opinion, as good as any colour photograph. It would be possible to name many of the species which we grow from this book.

A book to read if you have time on your hands is the *Macdonald Encyclopedia of Medicinal Plants*, a well illustrated volume on plants with

Subscriptions that will delight enthusiasts

medicinal properties (£12.95, hardback; £7.95, paperback).

Horticultural societies in this country are many and varied, and many enthusiasts would be delighted to be given a year's subscription to their favourite.

The Royal Horticultural Society comes top of the list and at £17 the subscription is good value. This covers a monthly journal as well as tickets to the Chelsea Flower Show and to the RHS Gardens at Wisley in Surrey.

The Royal National Rose Society is a must for keen rose-growers. £7 ensures membership for a year. This gives entry to the society's garden and trial ground at St Albans in Hertfordshire. Specialist societies are also worth looking at: the British Pelargonium and Geranium Society fosters the genus and produces many



publications to assist with their growth. The subscription costs £3; contact L. Davey, 2/108 Rosendale Road, London SE21.

Diaries are also in demand and the RHS pocket diary contains a wealth of useful information. Let's publish them at £2.25 each in various colours and they are available from most stationers.

Gloves are often the gardener's best friend and there is a wide range to choose from. Synchemicals, 44/45 Grange Walk, London SE1, have something for everyone. Their Green Thumb gloves cost £3.95 while the foam insulated Tuf Dug range cost £3.38 but will keep you warm through the winter. Ladies sizes are available.

Tools and equipment are acceptable no matter how big the garden. Starting with hand tools, Wilkinson Sword make a wide range of pruners to cover all gardening tasks from Anvil Pruners at £10.95 to the top of the range, the De Luxe Sword Pruner at £16.45. They also make a Pocket Pruner at £6.95. There is also a stainless steel hand trowel and fork in gift cases at £14.95 each.

No gardener should be without a knife: the Wilkinson Sword Pruning Knife at £7.95 has a curved blade and the Gardener's Knife has a saw blade as well as assist with pruning (£10.95). Spades and forks are good buys and these

are available from almost any garden centre (always try the spade before you buy as they come in a number of sizes).

The dry season has created problems for gardeners because watering became difficult, especially if the right equipment was not available. From Hoselock comes the Thru Flow Hose Cart which improves access to areas in need, and its 90 metres of hosepipe on wheels not only

Old-fashioned roses make unusual gifts

make watering easy but also keep the garden tidy. A bargain at £39.95. Sprinklers are good presents: the Hoselock ASL Lawn Queen is an oscillating-type sprinkler at £8.45.

Feeding goes hand-in-hand with watering and it is much easier if the fertiliser can be added direct from the hosepipe. From Phostrogen comes the Phosphoryl Dilutor: attached to a watering can or hosepipe, it makes feeding a simple matter. This piece of equipment won the Gold Award at Glee last year and is available at £6.25 per unit in shops or direct from Phostrogen, Corwen, Clwyd. An easy way to feed pot plants is by using Murphy's Feed and Grow mats: placed under the pot they release plant foods slowly. A packet of five costs £1.65. Roses du Temps Passé is a

mail order company which specializes in old-fashioned roses - most unusual gifts. Make your choice from their catalogue, Old Roses, and for a minimum order of £7 the company will send the rose in a gift pack with a card and envelope. Add £1.50 p&p if the order is below £20. Roses du Temps Passé, Woodlands House, Streton, near Stafford ST19 9LG.

Getting rid of rubbish from the garden is made easier by Bosmere's Bos-skip, a large, strong bag which does not hole or tear easily, fits into a barrow and at £7.50 is good value for a 6 cu ft container. If your family would like a conservatory, Europa Manor Engineers, Hinton Road, Brackley, Northamptonshire make a new lean-to model. Called the Countess, it is 6 ft wide and comes in three lengths, the 6 ft x 8 ft costs about £400. It is easy to assemble and the integral aluminium base helps installation.

Mowing machines make good presents and there are many to choose from. I refuse to be drawn into the cylinder versus hover type debate - each has its place in the garden. Reliability is important to go to the firms with a sound reputation such as Qualcast, Vicia, Flymo and Hayter. For larger gardens, the Vicia Vortex, a rotary mower which is quieter than most, will cost £324.30.

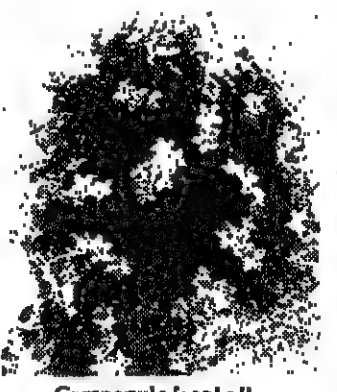
In the basket

One of the nicest flowering trailers for an indoor hanging basket is *Campanula isophylla*. This flowers mainly during the autumn and early winter.

Now is the time to sow a new strain of *C. isophylla* which will flower from mid-June onwards. This strain, Kristal Mixed, comes in varieties of the usual blue flower with the occasional white form. The plant's method of propagation has only recently changed from cutting to seed: this is easier and cheaper, and the plants are strong.

Sow into Levington or Arthur Bowers seed composts on to the surface of a pot or seed tray. Do not cover the seed and do not grow above 60°F. Cover the pot with a pane of glass and place it in good but shaded light, removing the glass after germination.

As soon as the plants are big enough to handle they should be potted off, keeping the maximum temperature of 60°F for a week



Campanula isophylla
when it can be dropped to 50°F for growing on. Potting on into a hanging basket can be done as soon as the 3in pot compost is exhausted. Keep the plants growing slowly and feed with a light general fertilizer about once a week. Seed is available from Thompson & Morgan (Ipswich), London Road, Copdock, Suffolk.

Warmth and water

The so-called geraniums in our gardens are not usually geraniums at all; they are pelargoniums. There are geranium plants, but these are normally herbaceous and hardy.

Pelargoniums are only hardy in the south west where they live outside from year to year. Otherwise all-year colour is only supplied by this family in a heated greenhouse, or a room where the light is good and the temperature constant.

The "bedding varieties", the zonals, can be kept growing and flowering all year by taking them from garden to greenhouse at the first sign of frost. Pot size depends on plant size. A 5in pot is all right for a bushy plant up to 1ft high. As plants grow they need to be potted on, using a good mixture giving sustenance to keep the plant growing and producing new roots. Ideally this should be done in the spring. Watering is the key to success. Keep the soil moist to keep plants



Pelargonium echinatum
becoming semi-dormant. A temperature of about 55°F will encourage growth. Feeding is also important: the best time to begin to feed plants is usually in late winter after they have potted on into new compost. Use a feed like Phostrogen which is not too high in nitrogen over winter. No cutting back is required over winter.

You can divide competitors into two types: the good losers and the bad. I count myself a pretty good loser, which is more than can be said for at least four of my friends.

I mention this because last week my family and several of those friends "consumer tested" a selection of new board games. Addicts all - except for me - they needed no persuasion to sit for hours grappling with familiar strategies but new, sometimes confusing, rules.

The first game we tackled was Trivial Pursuit. Beautifully packaged, it looks like a big box of After Eight - and has a similar after-dinner appeal. Moves are taken on the roll of a dice, which lands on a space. Colours are coded: blue for geography, pink for entertainment, yellow for history, brown for art and literature, green for science and nature or orange for sport and leisure.

There are 1,000 question and answer cards in matching colour-codes, each printed with 12 questions. These are, as one player neatly put it, "damned difficult if you don't know the answers, incredibly simple if you do".

Trivial Pursuit is a good game; four of us played it for hours. It's not really suitable for children under 11 or 12 (unless superbly educated), but a good game if you want them to improve their general knowledge. If we had a criticism - and of course we did - it was that results are a little slow to achieve (it really is a long game).

We also suspected that if we had played it non-stop for a week, we would have remembered most of the answers, thereby vastly reducing the

Cherishness that is cheerily unpleasant

odds of being able to pull a fast one over our opponents. Nevertheless, we agreed that it was probably the best new board game we had seen for years and will become a classic. Like a box of after-dinner mints, though, one should dip into it rather than gorge oneself.

By contrast, *Mid-Life Crisis*, could easily be consigned to the dustbin; a pity, because the title appealed - for obvious reasons - to most of the players. The aim is "to get through your middle years" (30-55), "with more money, less stress and fewer divorce plots than your opponents or to declare a mid-life crisis in which case you must go broke, get divorced and crack up before anyone else reaches the end of the game". Grim stuff, but as nothing



Spadework: The Garden Game takes time to learn but repays the effort

compared to the drivel on the "Criss" or "Zap" cards.

Take this cheery example of redundancy: "Now you're out bounding the pavement and being interviewed by kids who never heard of Frankie Lymon... add 200 stress points." There's plenty more of this, and despite the rare observation that makes you smile, the game is on the whole fatuous and, several of us thought, positively unpleasant.

We turned with relief to our third board, called *The Garden Game*. It is quite the prettiest I have seen. Everything is of high quality - from packaging to contents and the board itself.

The object of the game (for four players, adults or children aged nine and over) is for each player to plant seed packets in their gardens until they are full, with plants that do best together. The first player to complete a garden wins.

I liked this game better than any I have played in years - but then I am a gardener. Only one other player shared my enthusiasm. As we were drooping visibly after Trivial Pursuit and *Mid-Life Crisis*, we did not do full justice to the game which takes a while to learn if you are to enjoy it. The rules are clear but there are quite a lot of them and we reached information-saturation point. An interest in horticulture is not essential but

would certainly make the game more enjoyable.

The last two games are mainly for children. It is cheating a little, perhaps, to call *Crossbows* and *Catapults* a board game, because it can be played on any flat surface 6ft long, 3ft wide, but I include it because it relies largely on manoeuvring pieces across a space, and because all the

Scope for the invention of original tactics

children said it was "wicked" (1984 version of what we used to call "smashing").

It is for two players, one taking the title "Commander of the Vikings", the other "Commander of the Barbarians". With an arsenal of weapons, warriors, dungeons, a dragon, towers and courtyards, both players vie for victory. The rules are clearly and simply explained and various tactics and strategies are suggested, though the game also allows for the invention of original tactics and even new rules. It provoked whoops of victory, roars of defeat and a nine out of 10 or full marks rating.

The last game - *Quest for the Dungeonmaster* - proved less popular, though the children were initially keen to try it because the characters are based

on the *Dungeons and Dragons* cartoon series. It is basically like *Snakes and Ladders*, with cardboard characters moving across the board according to the cards you hold in your hand.

Perhaps the children were a little too old to enjoy it (the game claims to be for six-year-olds upwards), yet they all thought it would be difficult for anyone under seven to master. Their criticisms were that it looked, and that the cards were a bit too small and thick to shuffle. Their verdict: "Better than Snap or Happy Families, but not as good as Cluedo".

Of course, you may not share our opinions about these board games, but if you've done *Monopoly* to death and can't face another game of *Scrabble*, we think you might enjoy *The Garden Game*, will almost certainly like *Trivial Pursuit* and if you have children aged eight to 14, may get a lot of fun out of *Crossbows* and *Catapults*.

The Garden Game (Garden Game Ltd) £14.95. *Crossbows and Catapults* (Action G.T.) £10.98. *Dungeonmaster* (T.S.B.) £5.95. *Trivial Pursuit* (Palladium) prices from £19.95-£29; best to snap around. *Mid-Life Crisis* (Whale Toys) £14.85.

Outings

NATIONAL CAT CLUB SHOW: Every size, shape and colour of cat you can imagine - from prize-winning pedigree to household mog - on show. Over 80 varieties, including many kittens, in the feline equivalent of Crufts. Olympia, London W14. Today 10.30am-5.30pm. Adult £2, child £1.

THE PRICKLY MAGIC COMPUTER SHOW: Dr Mike Thorne and Michael Feldman, of Thames Television's *Data Base*, demonstrating the many things you can do with home computers. The Manor House Society, 80 East End Road, London N3 (246 2288). Tomorrow from 3pm. Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult. Small entrance charge at door.

EIGHTH LONDON PHOTOGRAPHY FAIR: Old photographs and books on display and for sale. Photographer's Gallery, 5 & 8 Great Newport Street, London W2.

Tomorrow, 11am-5pm. Adult 50p, child free.

BOOKFESTIVAL: Nine lessons and carols, and in the pulpit, Richard Baker, Claire Bloom, Patrick Lichfield, Claire Francis and Dick Francis. The choir of King's House School, Richmond, sing the carols. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served in the crypt afterwards. St Martins-in-the-Fields, London WC2, tomorrow 6.30pm. Free.

ON GUARD TOY SOLDIER EXHIBITION: The history of the British toy soldier since Victorian times. London Toy & Model Museum, Craven Hill, London W2 (262 7905). From tomorrow, Tues-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun 11am-5pm. Adult £1.80, child 60p.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE CHRISTMAS TREE: Will be lit up on Thurs at 6pm. Carol singing round the tree in aid of charities will take place every evening between 4 and 10pm.



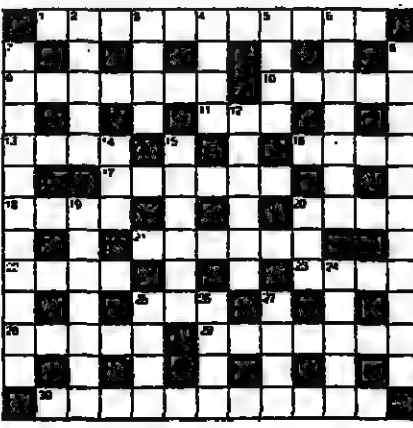
Whiskered wonder: An oriental spotted tabby faces the Press

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 516)

Prizes of the New Collins Concise English dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, December 13, 1984. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9ET. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, December 15, 1984.

ACROSS

- 1 Cooked fowl's tail
- 9 Living room (7)
- 10 Artificial waterway (5)
- 11 Jabber (3)
- 12 Not (4)
- 16 Remain (4)
- 17 Stupidity (6)
- 18 Reputation (4)
- 20 Ammunition (4)
- 21 Irritates (6)
- 22 Face covering (4)
- 23 Soot speak (4)
- 24 Raincoat (3)
- 25 Articulate (5)
- 29 Ruffian (7)
- 30 At later date (2,3,6)



DOWN

- 2 Main artery (5)
- 3 Store (4)
- 4 Not (4)
- 5 Kiss and cuddle (4)
- 6 Holy place (7)
- 7 Initial manoeuvre (7,4)
- 8 Procrastinate (4,3,4)
- 12 Fix firmly (6)
- 13 Printer's jumble (3)
- 15 Austrian capital (6)
- 19 Special embassy (7)
- 20 Fool (3)
- 21 1,760 yard runner (3)
- 24 Network (4)
- 26 Principal cook (4)
- 27 Sudden jar (4)

SOLUTION TO No 515
ACROSS: 1 Hubble 5 Papers 8 Rye 9 Abjure 10 Device 11 Snob 12 Telerion 14 Scone 17 Absent 19 Lone wolf 22 Lope 34 Strait 25 Lesson 26 Elf 27 Grater 28 Amazon 29 Urban 3 Bourbon 4 Breathe 5 Pedal 6 Pivot 7 Raccoon 13 Ebb 15 Crofter 16 Cow 17 Alalfa 18 Silesia 20 Exact 21 Outer 23 Photo 28 Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

DOWN: 2 Urban 3 Bourbon 4 Breathe 5 Pedal 6 Pivot 7 Raccoon 13 Ebb 15 Crofter 16 Cow 17 Alalfa 18 Silesia 20 Exact 21 Outer 23 Photo 28 Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

THE winners of prize concise No 510 are:
R. J. Tutin, 92 Dunelund, East Barnet, Hertfordshire; and W. A. Greyst, 19 Salmon Leap, Chester.

SOLUTION TO No 510 (last Saturday's prize concise)
ACROSS: 1 Market place 9 Affairs 10 Wheel 11 Sad 13 Roll 16 Vimy 17 Earwax 18 Nice 20 Shah 21 Boohoo 22 Able 23 Tang 25 Art 28-Negus 29 Realism 30 Pet aversion
DOWN: 2 Awful 3 Kris 4 Toss 5 Lewd 6 Cherish 7 Patron saint 8 Play the game 12 Apeach 14 Lee 15 Andour 19 Cologne 20 Sot 24 Amino 25 Asia 26 True 27 Pass

Name: _____
Address: _____

BRIDGE

Destroyer destroyed in a massacre

The British women's team were favourites to win the title in the seventh World Olympiad in Seattle. In the round robin qualifying, they started slowly, but after some anxious moments in the last match snatched the vital fourth place.

The Netherlands, who had won the qualifying rounds in great style fortified by the advantage of a 17 IMP carry over, selected Britain as their semi-final opponents. It was a presumption that they were made to regret. The final score was Britain 188, The Netherlands 56 (of which 17 were carry over). There have been few such one-sided massacres at this level of bridge.

On this hand Sally Horton and Sandra Landy found an adroit counter to the "destroyer spade" opening bid employed by their opponents.

Great Britain v The Netherlands. North-South game. Dealer west.

♠ AKQ1093
AQ
3 8

♠ 852
7 10 6 5 4
K 8

The "destroyer spade" created havoc on many occasions, but Sally Horton's sound judgement led to an iron clad contract. Four spades might or might not succeed. In several matches it was defeated (the same deals were played in the Women's and the Open series semifinals).

Initially it seems that careful defence against four spades should prevail. Imagine that East leads the ♠Q, which declarer wins with the ♠K. If declarer continues with the ♠8, East is confronted with a problem. If she plays low, declarer can establish a club trick, so suppose she inserts the ♠Q, which declarer wins with the ♠K.

West overcomes with a heart, which declarer wins with the ace. After one round of trumps, the play of the ♠J leaves East endplayed. She can cash her heart, but then what? A diamond is fatal, the ♠10 establishes dummy's ♠7, and a low club permits the eventual development of dummy's fifth club.

In the other semi-final, the United States defeated France by 138 IMPs to 107 IMPs, so in the final Britain faced their old rivals, conceding a carry over of 22.5 IMPs. Playing tight, accurate bridge, they clawed back the deficit so effectively that with 16 boards to play the margin was only 8.5 IMPs.

Board 54 could legitimately have decided the title. US v Great Britain. Game all. Dealer South.

♠ 8 4
A K 8 8 6 4 3
Q 8 4

♠ K 8 5 2
Q 9 7 6 4 3
10 5

♠ AQJ1083
K J 10
A 9 2

Open room
W Horton N Landy E Moss S
No 2/ No 14
No 4/ No 39
No 4NT No 5/

Closed room
W Kennedy N Davies E Sanders S
No 2/ No 14
No 4/ No 39
No 4NT No 5/

♠ 8 4
A K 8 8 6 4 3
Q 8 4

♠ K 8 5 2
Q 9 7 6 4 3
10 5

of her diamonds. Smith correctly assessed that her ♠Q could prove invaluable.

East led the ♠8 and West surprisingly covered dummy's ♠10 with the ♠Q, losing to declarer's ♠A. A diamond to dummy's ♠Q was followed by two club discards on the ♠KJ.

Declarer returned to hand with a club ruff, learned the first piece of bad news when the diamonds failed to divide, and the second when the spade finesse failed.

If six diamonds had succeeded, which after the lead it would have done four times out of five. Britain would have gained 18 points on the board, and won the championship by 0.5 of a match point. Instead they gained 71 IMPs, and narrowly lost the match.

If some disappointment is inevitable, there should be considerable pride in an achievement in which all six players shared. Gilberts, who sponsored our team, also deserve our thanks for assisting the team's thorough preparation.

The teams were: USA: Jacqui Mitchell, Gail Moss, Kathie Wei, Judi Radin, Carol Sanders, Betty Ann Kennedy, Non-playing Captain, Jim Zimmerman. Coach, Dan Morse. GB: Nicola Smith, Pat Davies, Sally Horton, Sandra Landy, Sarah Scarborough, Gillian Scott-Jones. Non-playing Captain, Hugh Kelsey, Coach, Gus Calderwood.

This seems an infinitely better bidding sequence. Both players show their controls, and Davies, having acknowledged tolerance for spades, stresses the quality

CHESS

Drawing bored

It begins to look as if the world championship match, which has dragged its weary length through what seem like centuries of dull chess in Moscow, is coming to an end in favour of the champion, Karpov. He leads 5-0.

From the 27 dull draws with which they have sullied the chess board, one gets the impression that neither player thinks it worthwhile to pretend that this is a genuine match. Karpov obviously subscribes to the modern Decalogue, according to Arthur Hugh Clough: "Thou shalt not kill; but need'st not strive officiously to keep alive."

Ray Keene, who was in Moscow when Kasparov, the challenger, missed a winning chance, thinks Kasparov was not throwing the match, merely moving too quickly. But why? This is no small-town friendly match.

Averbach, president of the Soviet Chess Federation, ascribes the challenger's poor showing to ineptness. But Kasparov has packed more experience into the last four years than most world champions have done in their lifetime.

I believe, in fact, that it needs the pen of someone like Clough to describe this world championship match in its full splendour. As for me, words fail me.

my life, but to which, indirectly, I owe it. I should explain that I was about to be sent to a highly dangerous area in the last war when, because I was a chess-master, I was transferred to Intelligence and spent the rest of the war in comparative safety as a code-breaker.

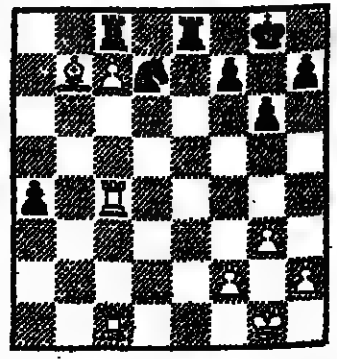
It would be futile and painful to look at any of the games of the match so here, as a welcome change, is the last game of the Kasparov-Korchnoi match, played in London in December last year.

White: Kasparov, Black: V. Korchnoi. Q. P. Benoni Defence.

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Harry Golombek

Warmth in one quest for

Art way

Classical records of the month

Warmth and wit in one man's quest for beauty

Murray Perahia has completed his cycle of Mozart piano concertos with some of the greatest and some of the earliest concertos, and the results have a sheen and beauty it would be hard to surpass. Every inflection of Perahia's playing breathes love and commitment to the music one could listen to these records simply to marvel at the command of long-term structure and short-term gesture, all accomplished within a piano sound that is warm, gracious and never brittle.

Occasionally Perahia's quest for beauty in these concertos leads him to miss their other characteristics. For all its sparkling wit, Perahia's account of the F major Concerto K439 has not yet succeeded in supplanting Pollini's recording with Böhm as my favourite. With Perahia, the English Chamber Orchestra is a much more appropriately sized band than the Vienna Philharmonic with Pollini, the matching between soloist and orchestra (for instance in the phrasing of the finale theme) is much more precise. And yet Perahia's essentially soft-edged sound misses something of the brittle clarity with which Pollini makes the immensely powerful imitative writing of that finale explode.

In contrast, Pollini's K488 in the same coupling is cold and distant. Perahia takes alarmingly slow speeds for the first two movements, manages to sustain them because his phrases are so minutely graded from note to note that continuity is assured. I can imagine a very different, much leaner treatment of the tragic F sharp minor slow movement, but it is hard to imagine the finale shaped with more effervescent skill than it is here.

The early concerti, adapted from the music of lesser composers of the time, are inevitably less interesting, but the real revelation in this batch is Perahia's rescue of the "Coronation" Concerto in D major, K537. It is often dismissed as the weakest of the mature concerti, but Perahia has its measure: he turns it into a serenely innocent dance, punching home the angular triplets in the first movement, elaborating the Larghetto delightfully, and racing through the finale with controlled gleam. Among many superb recordings in this cycle, this one will surely stand as a classic.

It would be not only invidious but impossible to compare Perahia's accounts with those of Malcolm Bilson, who is just beginning his Mozart cycle on an 18th-century style instrument. The premises are different, and the sound is completely different. John Eliot Gardiner creates a large-scale sound with his period-instrument band (possibly too grand in K414), but the plangency of the string sound allows Mozart's dissonances to emerge with unusual bite and force. Because Bilson plays continuo throughout (well balanced by the engineers so as to be quite audible at the start of both concerti), his solo passages emerge from the orchestral texture rather than seeming opposed to it.

And Bilson creates an absolutely personal, coherent musical discourse within the limits set by his instrument: a gleaming, brittle treble range; a sensuous middle range (exquisitely dark and velvety in the slow movement of K414) and gritty,

Mozart: Piano Concertos Nos 19 in F, K459; and 23 in A, K488 Murray Perahia/English Chamber Orchestra, CBS IM 39084. Mozart: Piano Concertos Nos 1-4, K27-39, 42, 41 Murray Perahia/English Chamber Orchestra, CBS IM 39225. Mozart: Piano Concerto No 26 in D, K537, "Coronation", Rondos K382, 386 Murray Perahia/English Chamber Orchestra, CBS IM 39224. Mozart: Piano Concertos Nos 12 in A, K414; and 14 in E flat, K449 Malcolm Bilson/English Baroque Soloists/John Eliot Gardiner, DG Archiv 413 483-1 AH. Mozart: Piano Trios in B flat, K502; and G major, K564 London Fortepiano Trio, Linda Nicholson (piano), Monica Huggett (violin), Timothy Mason (cello), Hyperion 486125.

lean bass register. He thracks the opening entry in K449 as if protesting a little too much, but the glinting, transparent interplay of the finale in that concerto allows the listener to feel himself right in the middle of the musical conversation.

A different approach to period-instrument Mozart is demonstrated on the London Fortepiano Trio's new disc (again, the second in a continuing series) of Mozart's wonderful and neglected piano trios. Here Linda Nicholson uses an original instrument, not a modern copy, by Johann Schantz, a maker Haydn admired. Though I have reservations about the recorded sound (the piano slightly too far back, too resonant, the violin too far forward), the piano sounds more crisp, bouncy, full of life - and the trio are infused with real chamber-music intimacy by these skilled players. Best of all is the finale of the B flat trio K254: astonishing that this should not be among Mozart's best-known movements, and its subtlety of construction and exuberance of spirit here sound freshly rediscovered.

Nicholas Kenyon

Numb and noble Dutchmen

Karajan's new *Flying Dutchman* lurches into view, massive and more than somewhat distraught. Recorded over a period of almost two years, between December 1981 and September last year, it spans a period of some change in his relationship with the Berlin Philharmonic, which may account for the way the accompaniment burns brightly in short bursts; or maybe this is just a result of the editing. The effect anyway is to emphasize how near the work is to its Singspiel origins, running proudly in brief numbers that come to a dead halt. There is a strength here that is hindered by its small-scale packaging: the sound is lowering and powerful, notably in the overture, but the rhythmic regularity keeps it from being as wayward and as

impressive as it might be. Other tussles come among the soloists. For his Senja, Karajan chooses Dunja Vejzovic. It is a curious step to take, and Miss Vejzovic does not quite take it: part of her, especially in the ballad and the finale, is still piercing towards the pathological venom of the other lady, Peter Hoffmann's Erik is also unappealing, and is perhaps the most worrying evidence yet that this gifted singer is overtaxing himself.

Kurt Moll is a jolly Daland; you can almost hear the tongue in the cheek as he trots out his bourgeois platitudes. However, the main reason for acquiring this set is to hear José van Dam's Dutchman. He sounds every bit the damned soul, singing with a greyness of tone that speaks of spiritual and emotional numbness.

This is very different from Simon Estes' performance of the Dutchman's monologue on the Dutchman's recital disc. Mr Estes is not chilled acceptance but suffering nobility, with a balance between anguish and maturity that is most effective here. In Amfortas's lament from the last act of *Parsifal*, I find the anguish excessive, and the indulgence of "die Wunde" tasteless. Nor is this splendid singer altogether happy in two stretches of Wotan's music from *Die Walküre*: his Act 2 nar-

ration and his farewell. Mr Estes has the royal vocal presence and the humanity of a magnificent Wotan but he is unfortunately caught here with unsteady intonation and a less than full command of the long phrase.

It would be unfair to pursue any comparisons with Theo Adam's performance in a classic live recording of the complete opera under Böhm, now happily made available on CD (and what a relief it is simply to be able to hear a whole act at a go). Dating from 1967, the set has a cast to throw anyone into paroxysms of nostalgia: Birgit Nilsson as Brinnhilde, Leonie Rysanek as Sieglinde, and perhaps now seeming rarest of all, James King as Siegmund, proving that real Wagner tenors existed only 17 years ago.

Finally, a brief but hearty welcome for one of the most curious operas since Wagner, Zemlin's version of *Die Walküre*. The soloists and the much revised libretto come from the Hamburg Opera's production of the opera as *Der Ziegler*, seen at Edinburgh last year. As those performances proved, it is a quite extraordinary piece, delightfully bizarre and beautiful, and not easily forgotten.

Paul Griffiths

Wagner: *Der Fliegende Holländer*, Vojtech Van Dam, Moll, Vienna Opera Chorus, Berlin Philharmonic, EMI Ex 27 00133 (three records). Wagner: *Excerpts* Estes, Berlin Staatskapelle/Fricke, Philips 412 271-1. Wagner: *Die Walküre* Soloists, Bayreuth Festival Orchestra/Böhm, Philips 412 478-4 (4 CDs). Zemlin: *Der Ziegler* Der Intendant Soloists, Berlin Radio SO/Albrecht, Schwann/Impetus VMS 1626 (2 records).

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Certainly the contributions of Domingo and Sinopoli are outstanding. Puccini's *Des Grieux* has never given Domingo any problems and his tenor here is free-flowing, lyrical and passionate as well as sounding marvellously youthful when he first spots Manon at the Amiens staging post ("Donna non vi mai"). It rounds off a very good year for him on disc. Sinopoli and the Philharmonia are equally persuasive and in a mood to reverse that wave of critical disapproval towards Puccini's opera that threatened when Scottish Opera staged it a couple of Edinburgh Festivals ago. Sinopoli is taut, even a little feverish at times, but never raucous. The Act III intermezzo is outstanding. Sinopoli, like Domingo, can be well satisfied with his year in the opera studios.

The revelation of the set, though, is Mirella Freni in the

title role. It is a reminder that some of her earliest recital records were of Puccini arias, but it is worth recalling too that she had not sung the role on stage until shortly before this *Manon Lescaut* went into the studios. Not that anyone would guess it from this performance: girlish flirtations in Act I, petulantly sorry for herself in Act II and finally shattered as she feels life slipping away in Act IV ("Sola, perduta, abbandonata", taken very slowly by soprano and conductor). She and Domingo are so good that the supporting cast is overshadowed, apart from Robert Gambrell's neat Edmondo. Keep the RCA *Manon* on the shelves for Björling in the first act; otherwise this is the one to have.

One of the great pleasures of the opera year has been the rediscovery of Chabrier's *L'Étoile*, seen first in Lyons and

then at the Opéra-Comique in Paris, where it returns in the middle of this month. Writing after the first Paris airing I suggested that EMI should issue the record made by the Lyon opera. They declined the suggestion, but here it is, thanks to the enterprise of Conifer, fresh under the baton of John Eliot Gardiner.

Colette Alliot-Lugaz is the star of both the Lyons and Paris casts in the *travesti* part of the pedlar Lazuli who wins his princess. Georges Gaudier makes a youthful King Ouf, that bloodthirsty monarch not too distant from G & S's Mikado, and the admirable Gabriel Bacquier is the court astrologer, who stars go consistently wrong. All in all, a delight, whether or not you can make it to Paris at the end of the year.

More Chabrier comes, by

courtesy of Conifer, in the shape of *Le Roi malgré lui*, whose libretto is even better than that of *L'Étoile* - if it is possible. Chabrier's renowned bonhomie fills the score, as does his gift for parody, especially in the "Strauss" waltzes at the start of Act II. Nor is he averse to direct quotation (Berlioz's Hungarian March in Act III) to make a wicked musical point.

This time the star is the orchestra under Charles Dutoit. The recording quality, like the singing, is only so-so. Barbara Hendricks has gaily but a little trouble with her coloratura; the usually excellent Gino Quilico is a bit subdued. A laughably overblown libretto note suggests that "from the purely musical standpoint" Chabrier's score is rather better than that of *Carmen*. Not quite so, but it is still a very enjoyable listen.

John Higgins

Paul Griffiths

Dukas: *Ariane et Barbe-Bleue* French Radio production/Armin Jordan, Erato/Conifer NUM 750693 (3 records). There is hot competition among rare operas this year, but Dukas's masterpiece is perhaps the oddest of the lot, with a score of immense richness and expressive maturity.

Revet: *Vocal works* Soloists, BBC SO, EMI/Boulez, CBS M 39022. Ravel's songs make a feast of exotic flavours, some sharp, some rich. Boulez has long had a special relationship with this composer, and here he has a team of soloists that provide pleasure in variety: Heather Harper in *Shéhérazade*, Jill Gomez in the Mallarmé set, Jessye Norman in the Malagasy songs and José van Dam going Spanish and Greek.

Rachmaninov: *Symphonic Dances*, Vocalise CBSO/Rattle, EMI ASD 143811. One of the keenest fascinations in music at the moment is that of observing Simon Rattle make Rachmaninov interesting and the Symphonic Dances have the special enthusiasm of his Birmingham work.

John Higgins Verdi: *Il trovatore* Plogwitz, Fassbender, Domingo, Zancaner, Santa Cecilia Orchestra/Giulini, DG 413 355. CD and cassette. No doubts about the opera set of the year: Giulini's first *Trovatore*

PICK OF THE YEAR



Choice: Mozart and Verdi on disc. His approach to this much-maligned opera is as persuasive as it is original. That same originality goes into the casting, from Plogwitz through Fassbender to the more obvious choice of Domingo. All are top class.

Stars of the Vienna Opera 1918-45 EMI 29 1031 (3 records). As enticing a treasure chest as EMI's earlier issue which covered the post-war years in Vienna. Accept that there are some tracks you will never want to listen to again for the sake of others which remain unsurpassed.

Claudia Muzio EMI EX 29 01633. Another example of the riches within EMI's archives. This issue covers Muzio near the end of her career in 1934-35, possibly past her best but still one of the great dramatic sopranos of the century.

Nicholas Kenyon

Charpentier: *Médée* Soloists, Les arts florissants/William Christie, Harmonia Mundi HMC 1138-41. A penetrating, dramatically convincing and musically ravishing revival of Charpentier's long-neglected masterpiece.

Machaut: *The Mirror of Narcissus* Kirkby, Philpot, Covey-Crump, Gothic Voices/Christopher Page, Hyperion A6607. At a time when medieval music is being neglected by the record companies, a revelatory disc which presents Machaut's songs with utter simplicity.

Mozart: Piano Concertos Nos 9 and 11 (K271, K413) Malcolm Bilson, English Baroque Soloists/John Eliot Gardiner, DG Archiv 410 905-1. An exciting first step on the road towards re-creating the piano concerto as Mozart knew it.

Brahms: *Symphony No 1* North German Radio Orchestra/Günther Wand, Deutsche Harmonia Mundi 1C 067-99 974-1. I choose this for its rare long-sightedness, its deep assimilation of the symphony's evolution, its instinct and its purpose.

Bartók: *Complete Quartets* Takács Quartet, Hungaroton SLPD 12502-04. High intelligence and imagination shape the whole approach of the Takács Quartet. Full marks for their bright, glowing focus.

Hilary Finch

GALLERIES

Art waves goodbye to the warehouse

Anne Berthoud, who has built up a considerable reputation for her shows of artists whose paintings lie on the borderline between abstract and figurative, has turned her back on trendy Covent Garden and moved to the centre of London's modern art world in the West End.

Her new gallery opens in Clifford Street, off Bond Street, on Monday, in an airy, spacious, south-facing room she will be exhibiting a mixed show by artists whom she has represented for some years, including paintings by Robert Mazon, Michael Brick and Michael Porter; pots by Magdalene Odundo and sculpture by Peter Randall-Page.

Anne Berthoud's previous gallery was in Langton Court,

Covent Garden, but she says, "It wasn't even listed in the A-Z. Although it was converted from an exotic-sounding old banana warehouse, with two floors and recessed walls that offered useful changes in perspective for viewing mixed shows (which Anne Berthoud likes on put on), it was not an ideal position for a modern art gallery. Her clients have greeted the news of the move with sighs of relief, telling her 'At last we'll be able to find you'."

When she opened her gallery four years ago, hopes were high that Covent Garden would attract collectors and art lovers more used to the streets of Mayfair, but gradually the character of the area emerged as one which would simply attract

casual shoppers and tourists, with its glitter, restaurants, fire-escape on the pavements in the summer and crowds spilling out from the pubs. She is obviously delighted with her new gallery and glad to be in such a central position; a different atmosphere prevails in the surrounding streets, but "I do not intend to become stuffy", she said with a wide smile. Were the other dealers welcoming when they heard about the gallery's move to their midst?

"I've had an incredible response from other galleries", she said. "I do not believe in competing with them. This is a competitive business. If she knows a collector is looking for something which she does not have in her gallery, she

will happily send them in the right direction.

Her commitment to her artists is evident; she talks with warmth and clarity about their work and the atmosphere in the gallery is friendly and unpretentious. "The move has been made with the artists in mind: 'You have a responsibility to your artists to show them in the best possible place', and the new setting, looking down over the heartland of London's modern-art market is ideal.

Prudence Hone

The Anne Berthoud Gallery, 10 Clifford Street, London W1 (437 1845) opens on Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm (closed Dec 22-Jan 7).

Openings

VIDEO TIMES: Kevin Atherton has a sense of humour; last year he exhibited three bronze deckchairs at the Serpentine Gallery and he has now turned his attention to the video age. His installation consists of a video, showing himself looking at a television screen, looking at you, looking at him. An accompanying booklet (a sort of combined TV and Radio Times) details each moment on screen: now he sucks a mint, now he blows his nose.

Kenley Yard, Northampton Street, Cambridge (0223 352124). Opens tomorrow, until Dec 21, Tue-Sat 12.30-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm.

Painters in Water-Colours and Painter-Etchers and Engravers, which range from delicately executed wood-engravings to traditional landscapes. Banksia Gallery, 48 Hopton Street, Blackfriars, London SE1. (023 7521). Opens Tues, until Dec 23, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-6pm.

Selected

AESOP'S FABLES. Portia Gallery, 16a Grafton Street, London W1 (493 0708). Until Jan 5, Mon-Fri 10am-5.45pm, Sat 11am-2pm. Mixed exhibition of gallery artists illustrating the fables; a great variety of styles, some amusing interpretations and one small, beautifully framed painting by Barry. Castle which seems to capture Aesop's enduring insight into human nature.

MICHAEL LLOYD/ALISTAIR McCALLUM. Oxford Gallery, 23 High Street, Oxford (0865 242781). Until Jan 3, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Two artists working in precious metals, but with very different styles: Lloyd produces chased silver bowls, McCallum uses mokumé, a technique which blends the metals together so that they swirl into patterns resembling melting ice creams.

Photography

ANNIE LEIBOVITZ: PHOTOGRAPHS WITH STYLE. Sills Gallery, 105 High Street, Edinburgh (031 557 1140). Until Jan 13, Tues-Sat 12.30-6pm. An apt title for an exhibition of portraits photographs which seem to have little of anything other than

style. With her work for *Rolling Stone* magazine in America, Annie Leibovitz has carved a distinctive style of photography which suggests the outrageous but which deals mainly in the contrived avant-garde with the avowed intention being to shock.

HOME FRONT AND STAYING ON. Photographers' Gallery, 5 & 6 Great Newport Street, London WC1 (240 1889). Until Jan 19, Tues-Sat 11am-7pm. John Reardon and Derek Bishton spent four years photographing the ethnic minorities in Handsworth. Sadly this show falls when seen alongside "Staying On" which is a fascinating exhibition, researched by Alex Noble, offering a broad historical perspective of immigrant communities in the British Isles.



Classical cut

Parian porcelain, named after the marble quarries on the Greek island of Paros, was introduced to this country in the 1840s. Figures made in the white, unglazed porcelain including those of classical scenes such as the Venus and Cupid by Minton (above) were very popular between 1850 and 1880. More than 600 examples, most of them for sale, will be on show at "The Parian Porcelain" at Chelsea Town Hall, Kings Road, London SW3 from Tues until Dec 21, 10am-7.30pm (closed Sun). Also on display will be Cheverton's three dimensional pantograph (left) for reducing figures and busts, which has been especially restored for the exhibition.

ROYAL BALLET. Covent Garden (240 1066). Today and Wed at 7.30pm. Jennifer Penney and Derek Deane have the leads in tonight's *Mayerling*; on Wed, *Swan Lake* is led by Marguerite Porter and Jay Jolley.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY. Sadler's Wells (278 8916). Today at 7.30pm. Their London season ends tonight with Paul Taylor's *Explosion* as the centrepiece of a programme also including Robert Cohan's *No Man's Land* and Slobodan Davies's *Free Setting*.

FESTIVAL BALLET. Bristol Hippodrome (0272 299444). Today at 2.30 and 7.30pm. Birmingham Hippodrome (021 622 7488). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Dec 15 at 2.30 and 7.30pm. Natalie Makarova dances Tatiana in *Olegin* (Mon, Wed), but Patricia Ruane (Tues) is also excellent in the role. Today's programme at Bristol includes the virtuoso *Etudes* and the Duke Ellington ballet, *Night*.

Creature; Birmingham gets *The Nutcracker*, Thurs-Sat.

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET. Southampton, Gaumont Theatre (0703 28771). Today at 2.30 and 7.30pm. The tour ends with two more performances of a mixed bill including Ashton's *The Dream* and *Facade*. The company's season at Sadler's Wells opens on Dec 18.

DANCE/MEDIA WEEK. Chisenhale Dance Space, 64 Chisenhale Road, London E3 (881 6617). Today-Mon, and Thurs-Dec 15, at 7.30pm. Celebrating the completion of a fire escape that enables it to open its doors to the public, this nest of "new dance" in Bethnal Green (just south of Victoria Park) presents different shows every night. Ring first to check details.

Dance: John Percival. Photography: Michael Young

The French Letters

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Entertainments

TELEVISION

THE WEEK

A master that might have been

Films on TV

In June 1962 a new magazine, *Movie*, announced its presence with a long diatribe against what it saw as the general ineptitude of the British cinema.

To underline the point, *Movie* produced a chart in which directors were grouped according to ability. Most of the established names were consigned to the dismissive category of "competent or ambitious" and only five made it to the ranks of the "talented", "very talented" or "brilliant".

Of these, Joseph Losey was an expatriate American and Hugo Freagonese an Argentinean who had worked mostly in Hollywood. That left Robert Hamer, of *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, Karel Reisz, who had just made *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, and Seth Holt.

And who, the casual filmgoer might have asked, was Seth Holt? Not exactly a name on every lip, yet, according to *Movie*, he was one of the few genuine talents working in the British cinema, and with Losey, its brightest hope for the future.

The magazine's high estimate of Holt was based almost entirely on one film, a psychological shocker made for Hammer called *Taste of Fear* (Channel 4, today, 11.30pm).

It had come out in the previous year (1961), though no one had taken much notice. *Movie* conceded that *Taste of Fear* was "by serious standards, not very good" and described its script as "a preposterous amalgam of previous thrillers", most notably *Le Diable à quatre*.

So why the fuss? Because "it reveals time and time again a director who can create cinematically, where other directors are



Taste of Fear: Susan Strasberg (left) and Ann Todd in Seth Holt's film

content with illustrating their scripts." *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, said *Movie*, "is a good film and we cannot imagine, on its evidence, that Karel Reisz will make a much better one. *Taste of Fear* is rather a bad film and we can imagine Seth Holt making a masterpiece".

Holt was a former actor who had joined Ealing studios in 1944 as an assistant editor. In that capacity he worked on celebrated pictures like *Dead of Night*, *Passport to Pimlico* and *Kind Hearts and Coronets*. Promoted to editor his credits included *The Lavender Hill Mob* and *Mandy*; he also, by the way, edited *Saturday Night and*

Sunday Morning. His directing debut came in 1958 with *Nowhere to Go*, a crime story he wrote with Kenneth Tynan. *Taste of Fear* was his second film, starring Susan Strasberg as a crippled heiress who becomes haunted by the corpse of her long-lost father.

Sadly, Holt did not produce the masterpiece that *Movie* had hoped for: his flair for lifting banal material continued for only four more films and, like his brother-in-law, Robert Hamer, he drank himself to an early death. *Taste of Fear* is a taste of what might have been.

Peter Waymark

Also recommended: *The Overlanders* (1946): Harry Watt's stirring account of a wartime cattle drive across Australia (BBC2, today, 3.10-4.00pm).

Fourteen Hours (1951): Richard Basehart as the man threatening to throw himself off a tall building in a durable suspense thriller directed by Henry Hathaway (Channel 4, today, 3.20-5.05pm).

Bus Stop (1956): Marilyn Monroe in top form as the catnip wooed by a simple cowboy (BBC2, Mon 6-7.30pm).

Moonlighting (1982): Jerzy Skolimowski's perceptive study of four Polish building workers doing up a house in London while awaiting news from home (Channel 4, Thurs, 9.30-11.20pm).

Programme choice

disappeared 40 years ago during a flight from Britain to Paris. Presented by a former guest vocalist with the Miller band, Anne Shelton, the programme comes from a United States Air Force base in Suffolk and features rich helpings of Miller style music with three of his wartime soloists. BBC1, tomorrow, 9.30-10.10pm. A second tribute, *Glenn Miller: A Moonlight Serenade*, introduced by Yan Johnson, is on Channel 4, Thurs, 5.30-7pm.

HILARY: Singer/comedian Mark Cane makes her debut in a situation comedy as the researcher for a television chat show, divorced and with a grown up son who aspires to be a musician. In this first episode (the full series starts in the New Year) she is sent to persuade a famous American stuntman to appear on the

programme, only to discover that he never gives interviews. BBC2, Mon, 9-9.30pm. **HUMAN RIGHTS:** On the anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 1948, a look at how far its hopes have been realised. Those interviewed by producer/director Rex Bloomstein range from the former American President, Jimmy Carter, and President Nimein of the Sudan, to the victims of political and religious persecution throughout the world. All ITV regions. Tues, 9.30-11.30pm.

KIPLING: The one-man play by Brian Clark, based on Kipling's poems and stories, and performed by Alec McCowen. Clark sees Kipling as a man of paradoxes, someone who loved soldiers but hated war, a patriot who described England as his favourite foreign country and an imperialist who refused to accept a Knighthood in the Order of the British Empire. Channel 4, Wed, 9-10.30pm.

ROCK & JAZZ

SALOMON/SINFONIA Today, 7.45pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (828 8795, credit cards 636 8891). Doron Salomon conducts the City of London Sinfonia in Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 3, Mozart's Symphony No 41 and Handel's Water Music. Peter Aronson solos in Mozart's Piano Concerto No 20.

ELISABETH LEONSKAJA Tomorrow, 3pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (922 3151, credit cards 922 8000). Elisabeth Leonskaja continues the South Bank Piano series with Beethoven's "Pathétique" and "Tempest" sonatas and Chopin's Four Scherzos.

RESURRECTION Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (922 3151, credit cards 922 8000). Sir John Pritchard conducts huge forces, including the London Symphony Chorus, LSO and soloists, in Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony.

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Christmas shows

A dash of the unexpected from Dickens

London

ALADDIN
Intimate Theatre, Green Lane, Potters Green, N13 (885 5451), Dec 17-19, Mon-Sat at 2.30 and 7pm except Dec 26, 27, 28, Jan 5, Jan 12 at 1.45 and 7.30pm. £3.50-£4.70. Cones and party rates.
Michael Robbins heads the cast of a traditional show, with Jane Harvey as Aladdin.

ANGEL
Little Angel Marionette Theatre, 14 Dagenham Passage, Cross Street, N1 (225 7747), until Jan 5, Sat at 4pm for 3-5-year-olds; Sat and Sun at 3pm for 5-11-year-olds. Daily at 3pm from Dec 26, 27, 28, Jan 5, Jan 12 at 1.45 and 7.30pm. £3.50-£4.70. Cones and party rates.
Popular puppet theatre company with a show for children of six years and above (3pm) and 5-5 years (11am). One hour 20 minutes, with one interval.

THE ANCIENT MARINER
Olivier (828 2252), Dec 17, 18, 20 at 2pm; Dec 27-29 at 2 and 7.15pm; Dec 31 at 2pm; Jan 6, 10, 14, 15, 18 at 2pm. Also in Feb and Mar in repertory. £5-£7.50. Cones and party rates.
Michael Bryant tells the story and a full company set it out, in Michael Bryant's adaptation of the epic poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

BABES IN THE WOOD
Lewisham Theatre (formerly Lewisham Concert Hall), Rushey Green, Catford, SE5 (850 5451/885 5451), Dec 25-Jan 26, Tues-Sat at 2.30pm until Jan 5, then Wed, Thurs, Sat and Sun at 2.30pm; Tues-Sat at 7pm through the run. £3.50-£5.50. Cones and party rates.
Lorraine Chase, Paul Shaw, Jeffrey Holland, Barry Howard, the Webb Twins in a very television-style oriented show.

BUTTON MOON & THE TIN CAN BAND
Southampton Row, WC1 (226 5911), Dec 15-Jan 5, Dec 17-21 at 10pm and Jan 12-14 at 7pm through the run. £3.50-£4.50. Cones and party rates.
The Charles Dickens story adapted for the stage.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
Brent Town Hall, Fort Lane, Wembley (904 8285), Mon-Dec 22, at 10pm and Jan until Dec 18 (at 7pm on Dec 15), and at 2 and 7pm Dec 26-27, £2-£3. Cones and party rates.
The Charles Dickens story adapted for the stage.

THE GINGERBREAD MAN
Bromley Theatre, Gordon Street, WC1 (887 9629), until Jan 13, perfs at 10.30am, 2.30, 3.30 and 5.30pm according to the day; Tues-Sun, 10.30am, 2.30, 3.30 and 5.30pm. Cones and party rates.
Peter Duncan stars with Ronnie Stevens and Jacqueline Clarke in the sixth London season of the David Wood musical play for children.

GOLDLOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS
Greene Theatre, Hoxton, East (404 2433), until Feb 7, 10, 12 at 2.30pm, then Wed, Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm, Dec 3, 7, 11 at 5.30pm, then Mon-Sat mainly at 5.30pm, sometimes at 7.30pm. No perfs Dec 25, Jan 14, 21, 28, Feb 4, £3.50-£4.50. Cones and party rates.
John Harty's version is set in a circus, with some seats "ringside" on stage.

HARD TIMES
Orange Tree Theatre, opposite Richmond Station, Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey (940 3633), until Dec 15, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Sat and Dec 8, 12 at 2.30pm. Dec 27-Jan 18 Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Sat and Jan 2, 5, 19 at 2.30pm. £2.50-£4. Cones and party rates.
Caroline John, Frank Moore, Kate Spill and David Timmins play the characters in this adaptation by Stephen Jeffreys of Charles Dickens's saga of mill-living.

THE KING OF THE BASKERVILLES
Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, SW11 (226 5557), Dec 12-Jan 13, Tues-Sun at 7.30pm; matinees Tues and Thurs at 2.30pm, Sun at 4pm. £2.50-£3. Cones and party rates.
One for over eight-year-olds. A rather "blood-burbling" pantomime, but essentially good clean fun.

HUMPTY DUMPTY
The Old Vic, Tottenham Court Road, WC1 (584 8555), Dec 21-Feb 5, Dec 21 at 7pm, then Mon-Sat at 2.30 and 7.30pm. No perfs Dec 25, £3.50-£7.50. Cones and party rates.
Ventiquattro (Keith Harris, with "Orville" and a full company in a lavish traditional pantomime with costumes and sets from Welsh National Opera.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK AND THE WILD, WILD WEST
Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (526 6363), until Jan 15, perfs Mon-Sat at 10am, 2 and 7pm, but they vary, and never more than two shows a day. £3.50. Cones and party rates.
David Holman has set the fairy-tale in Kansas, and includes a Mexican giant

CIDER WITH ROSIE
Cider with Rosie, Crooms Hill, SE16 (858 7755), Preview Dec 19 at 7.45pm, opens Dec 20 at 7pm, until Feb 2, Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Sat at 2.30pm, Dec 26, 27, 28, Jan 5, Jan 12 at 1.45 and 7.30pm. £3.50-£4.70. Cones and party rates.
James Roose-Evans's adaptation of the Laurie Lee autobiographical work, which deals of childhood in the Cotswolds. Barbara Emery, Christopher Timothy, Simon Butteriss, Richard Pearce, Jeremy Swift and Douglas Milvan, directed by Roose-Evans.

CINDERELLA
Beck Theatre, Grange Road, Hayes, Middlesex (861 8071), Dec 19-Jan 12, Mon-Sat at 2.30 and 7pm (Dec 31 at 1 and 4.30pm). No perfs Dec 25, £5.50. Cones and party rates.
Lorraine Chase, Paul Shaw, Jeffrey Holland, Barry Howard, the Webb Twins in a very television-style oriented show.

CINDERELLA
Brent Town Hall, Fort Lane, Wembley (904 8285), Jan 2-5, Wed-Sat at 7pm; matinees Sat at 2.30pm. £2-£3. Cones and party rates.
The Chameleons, local amateur dramatic society, in traditional show.

GERRY COTTE'S CIRCUS
Clapham Common, SW4 (228 5447), Dec 22-Jan 5, daily at 2 and 5pm. £4. Cones and party rates.
John Carter's Old Time Steam Fair is also on site, open 1-5pm.

DICK WHITTINGTON & HIS WONDERCAT
Ealing Town Hall, Ealing, W5 (557 8273), Jan 9-12, Wed-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Jan 12 at 2.30pm. £3. Cones and party rates.
The David Wood version of the traditional tale.

DICK WHITTINGTON
Ealing Town Hall, Ealing, W5 (557 8273), Jan 9-12, Wed-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Jan 12 at 2.30pm. £3. Cones and party rates.
The David Wood version of the traditional tale.

DICK WHITTINGTON
New End Theatre, 27 New End, NW3 (622 6053), Dec 18-Jan 13, Tues-Sat at 2.30 and 7pm; Sun at 3.30 and 6.30pm. Cones and party rates.
The David Wood version of the traditional tale.

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In London and the surrounding area, Christmas fare includes four Cinderellas, four Dick Whittingtons (one with his wondercat), three Mother Goose and three Pinocchio; all good traditional stuff, although Whittington's wondercat is a bit worrying - he was pretty special anyway.

Away from pantomimes, Charles Dickens is well represented, with three offerings. There is only one *Christmas Carol*, however, and the other two are not immediately obvious Christmas shows. *Hard Times*, and *Great Expectations*, Peter Coo, who has adapted *Great Expectations* and directs it at the Old Vic, admits it is not a traditional Christmas show, but argues that it is very suitable for Christmas. "It is a family oriented show, as *Oliver!* is, a story about a boy that can capture the imagination of children, and a show that the whole family is able to enjoy."

Not keen on pantomimes himself, he believes there are many families who want something more than a pantomime. In fact, he has inserted a pantomime scene into the production about Wopsle, a friend of Pip's sister, who gives up his job as parish clerk to go on the London stage.

The Old Vic used to be renowned for staging productions of Dickens and it was the theatre's idea that *Great Expectations* should be put on



Dickensian drama: John Shepherd and Sheila Burrell in *Great Expectations*

at Christmas. Coo believes "it has the great merit of being a piece of Dickens which is not gloomy, or full of social comment or the seamy side of life. It is a rather gentle piece, and tells a good story."

In a coproduction by the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, and the Birmingham Repertory

theatre, Ian McCurrach plays Pip and Roy Dotrice plays Magwitch. The cast also includes Sheila Burrell (Miss Havisham); Anthony Pearson is Young Pip, a role played on tour by John Shepherd. Leon Greene (Joe Gargery), Tony Jay (Jaggers), Charles Lewson (Wemmick), Lynn Clayton

(Estella) and Colin Johnson (Herbert Pocket).

Christopher Warman
Great Expectations is at the Old Vic, Waterloo Road, London SE1 (020 7618). Previews Dec 26-29, 31, Jan 1, opens Jan 2 at 7pm. Then until Feb 2, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Wed and Sat at 2.30pm.

and a black girl from New Orleans, plus a country music band playing in the theatre, in this first Young Vic pantomime. Intended specifically for 5-13-year-olds.

JIMMY TARBURCK'S ALL LAUGHTER CHRISTMAS SHOW
Fairfield Halls, Croydon, Surrey (888 9291), Dec 26-29, at 8.30pm. Extra shows Dec 26, 27, at 6pm. £4-£7. Cones and party rates.
The Smurfs, cartoon characters, are featured in this year's spectacular ice-skating show, famous for its set-pieces and colourful effects.

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES
Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, SW11 (226 5557), Dec 12-Jan 13, Tues-Sun at 7.30pm; matinees Tues and Thurs at 2.30pm, Sun at 4pm. £2.50-£3. Cones and party rates.
One for over eight-year-olds. A rather "blood-burbling" pantomime, but essentially good clean fun.

HUMPTY DUMPTY
The Old Vic, Tottenham Court Road, WC1 (584 8555), Dec 21-Feb 5, Dec 21 at 7pm, then Mon-Sat at 2.30 and 7.30pm. No perfs Dec 25, £3.50-£7.50. Cones and party rates.
Ventiquattro (Keith Harris, with "Orville" and a full company in a lavish traditional pantomime with costumes and sets from Welsh National Opera.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK AND THE WILD, WILD WEST
Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (526 6363), until Jan 15, perfs Mon-Sat at 10am, 2 and 7pm, but they vary, and never more than two shows a day. £3.50. Cones and party rates.
David Holman has set the fairy-tale in Kansas, and includes a Mexican giant

Marty Flood, Non-musical. Armed at 5-13-year-olds.

THE MAGIC CASTLE
Earlham Street, WC2 (240 5091), Mon-Thurs at 7.30pm. Fri and Sat at 5 and 8.45pm. No perfs Dec 25, £4.50-£11.50. Cones and party rates.
Formerly the Cambridge Theatre, now the permanent home of large-scale shows of illusion and magic, with supporting music and dance. Johnny Hart and Zee and Co.

BROTHER GOOSE
Bridge Lane Theatre, Bridge Lane, SW11 (228 8828), Dec 22-Jan 12, Previews Dec 22 at 2.30 and 7pm, all tickets £2; No perfs Dec 25-26, Dec 26 at 2.30, 5pm; then Mon-Fri at 2.30 and 7pm, Sat at 2, 5, 8pm. Perfs Jan 1 also at 2, 5, 8pm. £2.50-£4. Cones and party rates.
Comedy and party rates.
Kim Joyce, Michael Shering, James Powell in a Betty Astell pantomime.

MOTHER GOOSE
Churchill Theatre, High Street, Bromley, Kent (460 5577), Dec 14-Jan 19, Chantry preview Dec 14 at 7.30pm. All seats £5. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm, with a few exceptions; matinees at 10.30pm, 2.30 and 4.15pm; except on the day. No perfs Dec 25, £4.50-£5.50. Cones and party rates.
John Inman, Dianne Lee, Kate Budd, Jack Hall.

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE
Westminster Theatre, Palace Street, SW1 (534 0283), until Jan 12, perfs at 10am, 2.30 and 6pm, varying according to the day. Mon-Sat, one or two shows each day. No perfs Dec 25, £3.50-£7. Cones and party rates.
Richard Williams's adaptation of the C. S. Lewis children's book, designed by

THE NATIVITY/THE PASSION
Royal Festival Hall (828 3191), Dec 26-Jan 15, Dec 26-29, Dec 31-Jan 5, Jan 7, 18 at 7.30pm; Dec 31-Jan 5, Jan 7, 18 at 7.30pm; also in Feb in repertory. The Passion preview Dec 18, 19, 20, Jan 16 at 7.30pm; opens Jan 19 at 7.30pm, Jan 22 at 7.30pm, also in Feb in repertory. £5.50 (standings). Cones and party rates.
Bd Bryden directs the NT in versions of two Medieval Mystery Plays, by Tony Harrison and the company, in promenade productions. Both well received before. A third, *DOMINION*, will join the repertory in previews from Jan 9.

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THE ARTS

Radio
Other worlds

How the idea of reincarnation does run - and no wonder for how attractive it is as a way of explaining a variety of puzzles: it gives meaning, even a sort of dubious dignity, to the manifest inequality of life on earth - you are as you are because of time round and what you did or didn't do with it; it offers explanations for the curious glances and transpositions of time that come to a few of us; along with ideas such as heaven and hell, it is one of the devices for keeping the show on the road. So Patricia Chapman, author of *The Other Lake* (Radio 3, Dec 3; director, Cherry Cookson) established an easy claim on her listeners' interest by making the metaphysical idea the subject of her play. But of course she also put an immense hurdle in her own path, for such a mort of vacant rubbish has been written about reincarnation that any writer who turns to it yet it again risks evoking all the laughing associations of that tawdry pile.

I am very glad to say that *The Other Lake* almost never brought such things to mind. It was the tale of an imperious, pettish, self-obsessed bitch of an opera star (Sian Phillips - a marvelous) whose lawyer-cum-lover gives her a most beautiful Tang vase. Her only thought is that her long-suffering secretary-factotum, Jane (Janet Maw), should take the thing to be valued for a quick sale. But the vase acts on Jane most strangely and gradually, in a way that made the skin begin to prickle, it reanimates in her another time and life in China as daughter-in-law of the malvolent Empress Wu who had condemned her to death for some trifling offence. Her flight from execution brought her to the potter's house where she learnt his trade and came briefly upon the love of her life - a wandering merchant. The vase, it seems, was made by her.

Apart from rare moments when the parallels of one set of lives with another seemed a shade too pat, present and past faded in and out so that the one seemed to be the resonance of the other - and indeed this was explicitly the underlying theme of the play: what one does resonates in "other worlds and other times", an idea which, it seems to me, does not require us to presuppose anything as literal and romantic as reincarnation at all; one, however, that speaks with an even more compelling voice.

It was Cherry Cookson's day, December 3, for that same

afternoon Radio 4 broadcast another play she had directed. Thanking by Jehane Markham, while thematically less ambitious than *The Other Lake*, was within its smaller ambit even more successful. Three women, no longer quite young, as they do every now and then for dinner in the flat of one of them. This one is Anna (Anna Nyhl), an American, aspiring literary agent. Her guests are Laura (Elizabeth Bell), aspiring painter and Jose (Petra Markham), the only one of them to have a child - Laura having miscarried. Anna aborted. But Jose's blessing is her shackle: tied, as it were by the nipple, she can only ponder on the impossibility of catching up with the rest of her life. The talk between the three is friendly but prosaic: it is what they say to themselves while that interests us, how they see each other and their past. The play's two levels were beautifully distinguished yet combined by setting thought over slow drifting dance music so that, by some other operation of the process of resonance, these self-searching sequences seemed to run over into the dinner-table chat and made its ordinariness quite chilling.

Could it have been too little a concern for resonance that made *Telling Tales* (Radio 4, Sunday, producer, Anne Brown) a play of a bit of a disappointment? Frankly, it is a winning fellow at the microphone, but that and a very promising relaxed start are not enough to keep three whole hours of radio afloat.

Things went downhill in the second programme (Nov 18) which wandered aimlessly around the not very significant question of when is a story a joke and when is a joke a story. They never really recovered - although there were some delightful tales and readings along the way. But what is one to think of a major series on stories which has so little to say about the extraordinary universality of certain story structures? A late 19th century collector, for example, identified 345 versions world-wide of the Cinderella theme. And what about the contention that stories offer not only an exceptionally subtle and memorable account of our thoughts and behaviour but are also maps of "other worlds and other times" as well as unique teaching instruments? Did Mr Delany and his researchers never find this out?

David Wade

Theatre in New York
Anarchy on Broadway

Piquant parts, but only one artistic whole have characterized recent New York theatre. The most hyped show since *Sex* - Joseph Papp's Public Theatre production of *La Bohème* starring Linda Ronstadt - is neither as bad as opera purists, nor as good as Ronstadt enthusiasts hoped.

As anticipated and, indeed, proclaimed in endless feature articles, Miss Ronstadt does not have the middle voice to sustain Mimi. Though occasional high notes are piercingly lovely, her diction is often unintelligible and her singing and acting are so tentative that one can only give her points for courage in her determination to grow as an artist. The popular country-music singer Gary Morris fares better as Rodolfo, being stronger in voice and personality.

Each star alternates performance with other singers. Among them, Patti Cohenour, proving a heart-breaking Mimi with a crystalline soprano and radiant spirit. Making his New York debut as Marcel, Howard McGillin is a handsome charmer with a baritone to match.

The real surprise of Wilford Leach's production is its conservatism. Is this the director who revitalized *The Prince of Denmark* and made fresh approaches to many a classic? His *Bohème* is so faithful to the musical score (within the confines of 12 players and discreet amplification) and so straightforward in design and staging that it might be an earnest university production.

Two Broadway shows were slowly doing to death. A tired updating and shoddy production of Rudolf Friml's musical version of *The Three Musketeers* deserved such a fate, but *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* was too harshly executed.

Richard Nelson's adaptation of Dario Fo's play was judged a failure by many critics. They found particular fault with the American references introduced, but I thought that any adaptation which included the line "We are a people rich in resources, and our richest resource is our rich people" had a right to exist. So did Jonathan Pryce's inventive and dynamic *Fool*. In spite of wonderfully able supporting actors, however, Douglas C. Wagner's staging did not unite the cast in

a style which made full use of their talents, and the production was often even more haphazard than the play. At least *Anarchist* succeeded not only in getting a Dario Fo play on Broadway but Fo himself - denied a visa twice before by the US State Department - into the country to observe rehearsals.

David Storey is a familiar figure here, and the Manhattan Theatre Club chose his early work in *Celebration* to open a new theatre at the midtown City Center. While hardly a washout with actors like Malcolm McDowell, Frank Grimes and John C. Vennema as the sons, Pauline Fleming as their mother and Margaret Hilton as the chirpy nosy neighbour, Lindsay Anderson's production splinters the fragile drama. The actors play the end from the beginning. One knows their precise emotional states immediately, and watching the predictable become tedious even with such appealing performers.

The long-winded, disjointed virus infects Michael Weller's *The Ballad of Soapy Smith* (Public Theater) and Peter Parnell's *Romance Language* (Playwrights Horizons), but both are so admirably ambitious and frequently imaginative and incisive that their ailments are not fatal. *Soapy Smith* is a tale about a con-man during the 1890s Alaska Gold Rush. With lines such as "Capitalism is the best hustle in town" and an engaging performance of Soapy by Denis Arndt, the play succeeds in illustrating how confused good and bad intentions and results can become to individuals and communities at any time, anywhere.

To capture the essence of *Romance Language*, imagine a full-length variation on the opening scene of Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*. Peter Parnell's characters and events include Walt Whitman helping huckleberry Finn search for Tom Sawyer, Louisa May Alcott pursuing a futile love for Henry David Thoreau and eventually having a torrid affair with General Custer, and the breech-rose actress Charlotte Cushman seducing Emily Dickinson. They all embark on journeys across the United States, ending shortly after Custer's Last Stand and commenting along the way on American culture with a bite



Jonathan Pryce's inventive and dynamic *Fool* in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*

like a little devil with a sweet tooth.

The devils in *The Garden of Earthly Delights* (Music Theatre Group/Lenox Arts Center at St Clements) are malevolent creatures, but this music-theatre-dance work featuring 10 dancer-musicians is entirely uplifting. Conceived and directed by Martha Clark (who also dances), with an Obie-winning score by Richard Peaslee, the piece is based upon Hieronymus Bosch's fifteenth-century painting and encompasses four sections: Eden,

the Garden, the Seven Sins and Hell. From the moment Eve swings her hair to fall upon Adam like velvet, to that when the first of numerous flying performers as two angels glide in to twirling sounds, to such eerie sequences as a man driving a cello through a woman and plucking a haunting melody over her corpse, the one-hour work is full of such surprises and delights that it feels all too short yet artistically perfect unto itself.

Holly Hill

● The Almeida Theatre's production of *Melancholy Jacques*, premiered at this year's Edinburgh Festival, is to play at the Bush Theatre from Tuesday until December 29. This portrait of the philosopher, poet and composer Jean-Jacques Rousseau, starring Simon Callow, is based on two of

Rousseau's works, *Rereries of a Solitary Walker* and *Letter to d'Alembert*.

● The Royal Shakespeare Company is to present J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* at the Barbican Theatre for a third successive, and final, Christmas season, from December 15 to January 19.

Television
Well rehearsed

Arena (BBC 2) presented the British premiere of Ingmar Bergman's *After The Rehearsal*, a film set in "the twilight hour" after rehearsals in the theatre. For those who know Bergman for his more florid and emblematic films, which have become a byword for Swedish seriousness, this new chaste and relaxed style may come as something of a shock. But it has its own pleasures, even if they are sometimes slow in coming.

This was, after all, a film in which three people talked while around them lurked the silence of the stage, echoing with the life which had just left it. But it was a film about actors and acting, it also became a mystery story on the theme of time and memory.

These are difficult subjects, perhaps, but film is by its nature best medium for combining the different layers of narrative involved - Bergman uses such techniques as "flash-back" or "voice-over" to create three or four points of consciousness at once. And such an intimate and concentrated experience works

better on television than it would on the large screen: the length (at just over an hour) is also important here, since this was the equivalent of a short story rather than a novel.

It was definitely an advantage, in a film which is in part concerned with the nature of acting, that the performances were so good - particularly that of Erland Josephson as the elderly director, not a million miles away (it seems) from Bergman himself. And the writing, so far as one could tell from the sub-titles, was excellent even when it veered towards roundly rather than profoundly. "Everything represents, nothing is."

There were moments of boredom, and the sustained concentration on one single mood might have seemed tedious to those who think of television as a variety act, but Bergman's direction was noticeable for its fluency as well as its restraint. It was imaginative of Arena to let it stand unadorned.

Peter Ackroyd

Opera

The Makropulos Case
Coliseum

Without doubt one of the most important developments in opera in Britain this decade, if not half-century, has been the habilitation of Janáček. And never before has London had such an opportunity to feel the full force of David Pountney's directorial appropriation of the pioneering work of Sir Charles Mackerras. His productions of Janáček's two last operas are, wonderfully, being staged on consecutive evenings this week: last night, his *House of the Dead* played the Dominion, and on Thursday night, the first revival of his *Makropulos Case* for English National Opera opened an all too short run of four performances at the Coliseum.

In this opera, and in this production, it is the heart of the Janáček Case itself which beats loud and clear. Janáček, writing "as if I were soon to settle my account with life", celebrates the glory of his allotted span by revealing the agony and futility of its attenuation in the figure of the 330-year-old Emilia Marty. Richard Armstrong, in the pit (partnering Pountney again as

in the original Welsh National Janáček cycle) celebrates with equal voracity the propulsive network of dramatic-motivic energy which is Janáček's score.

The intensity of integration of word and note, of idea, response and realization - that one thrills to in this production is focused once again, and more strikingly than ever, in Josephine Barstow's Emilia Marty. All her long journeying through the transformations of time, people, and emotional awareness is now fully assimilated vocally, and projected in a remarkable elision of mood and response.

With a new young Gregor in Graham Clark, his tenor cut with hysteria, both ice and fire burn together and with a new Janáček in Bonaventura Bottone, and with Stuart Kirk repeating his poor, crazed Hank, humour sets up a new friction with pain. Donald Maxwell brings menacing weight as well as caddishness to the part of Baron Frus. And in the desiccated, light-striped darkness of Maria Björnson's act, figures like Edward Byles's Vitek, Erio Shilling's Kolenaty and Patricia O'Neill's Kristina return to stir the shadows.

Hilary Finch

Court of Appeal

Duty of care in tort for economic loss

Leigh and Silavan Ltd v Alakson Shipping Co Ltd
Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Oliver and Lord Justice Robert Goff.
[Judgment delivered December 7]

The Court of Appeal considered the duty of care in tort for economic loss in reserved judgments when allowing an appeal by defendant shipowners, Alakson Shipping Co Ltd, from the judgment of Mr Justice Staughton on July 30, 1982 (1983) 1 Lloyd's Rep 203 for the plaintiff buyers, Leigh and Silavan Ltd, for £283,000 and interest.

The court declined to give leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Mr Jonathan Sumption for the defendants; Mr Anthony Clarke, QC and Mr Nigel Teare for the plaintiffs.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the issue on the appeal was whether it was the buyers or sellers of a quantity of steel in coils who were entitled to sue the shipowners for damage to those goods when on a voyage from Korea to Immingham.

The contract of sale was for steel coils to be shipped in Korea and I free out, Immingham. The price was payable by a bill of lading of exchange to be endorsed by the buyers' bank in exchange for a bill of lading.

The steel was purchased by the sellers from a steel company who shipped it taking a bill of lading showing the buyers as named consignees and the sellers as the notified party. The shipowners delivered the bill of lading to the sellers and the vessel sailed.

The contract was not performed as contemplated. Steel prices fell and the buyers were unable to effect a resale before the time when the bill of lading would be tendered and they would have to produce the bill of exchange backed by their bank for the price.

In consequence the bank declined to back the bill. The buyers, a substantial and respectable concern, were greatly embarrassed at the situation. The sellers were equally substantial and respectable and the two parties got together to resolve the problem.

His Lordship set out Mr Justice Staughton's account (1983) 1 Lloyd's Rep 203, 205-207 of what happened at a meeting between representatives of the parties on October 7, 1976 and his reasons for deciding (207) "the issue of title to sue in this case in favour of the buyers".

His Lordship reached a different conclusion from the judge who must have overlooked the effect of section 9(1) of the Sale of Goods Act 1979 which precisely fitted the facts of the case. Section 1 of the Bills of Lading Act 1853 did not operate to transfer to the buyers any rights of suit under the bill of lading contract.

It was necessary to consider whether the buyers could rely upon an implied contract between them and the shipowners on the terms of the bill of lading as was done in *Brandt v Liverpool Steam Navigation Co Ltd* (1924) 1 KB 575.

The crucial difference between brandt and the present case was that

in the letter with which the bill of lading was sent to the ship's agents, the buyers said that the materials were to be placed into warehouse to the sole order of the sellers. The only contract which could be implied was one between the sellers and the shipowners. That was of no consequence to the buyers.

That disposed of all contracted claims by the buyers against the shipowners. But it still left a claim in tort which was very much in issue.

If there was any tortious breach of duty by the shipowners it took place while the steel was in their custody. At that time the buyers were neither the owners of the steel, nor had they any right of possession, other than as persons who held the bill of lading on behalf of the sellers. The buyers had agreed to buy it on c and t terms, the sellers having reserved a right of disposal pending payment of the price. Lord Justice Staughton said that such a contract of sale of goods to ship goods conforming to the contract and to secure a contract of affreightment in customary terms.

A not dissimilar claim was put forward in *Margarine Union GmbH v Cambay Prince Steamship Co Ltd* (The *Wear Breeze*) (1969) 1 QB 219, 252 where Mr Justice Roskill in a classic and lucid review of the authorities and held that, as the law then stood, shipowners owed no duty of care in the carriage of goods to persons other than one who owned the goods or had an immediate right to possession of them.

It was now said, and been held in *The Irene's Success* (1981) 2 Lloyd's Rep 639 and *The New Tyne* (1982) 1 Lloyd's Rep 609, that the law had been changed by the decision of the House of Lords in *Attin v Merton London Borough Council* (1978) AC 728.

His Lordship applied the two-stage test formulated in *Attin* and Lord Wilberforce at pp 751-752: (1) As between the buyers and the shipowners there was a sufficient relationship of proximity or neighbourhood such that, in the reasonable contemplation of the shipowners, carelessness on their part would be likely to cause damage to the buyers.

The answer must be "Yes". Prima facie the shipowners did owe the buyers a duty of care.

(2) Were there any considerations which ought to negative, or reduce or to limit the scope of the duty or the class of persons to whom it was owed?

The relationships between buyer and seller and between cargo-owner and shipowner were quite distinct. In each case a duty of care was established on economic balance, but there was no reason why it should be the same balance.

In the instant case the buyers claimed the right to impose upon the shipowners a higher duty of care than the shipowners owed to the seller under the bill of lading contract, or, as the case might be, the charter, and to do so, without the shipowners' leave or licence, by means of a contract with the sellers.

His Lordship did not see how any duty of care owed in tort to the buyer could be equated to the contractual duty of care owed to the seller. He would allow the appeal and hold that the plaintiff had no

right to sue the defendant shipowners.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER said that he agreed that the buyers' claim against the shipowners based on contract failed.

As to the claim, in tort, although the court was agreed as to the result of the claim he reached that conclusion by a rather different route from that taken by the Master of the Rolls and was not able to take the same view as Lord Justice Robert Goff with regard to the possibility of an action in tort against a shipowner for damage to goods carried by him by one who was not at the material time the owner or entitled to possession of the goods.

The development of the law of tort of negligence over the past twenty years had been such that the question was a greater one of policy than of fact, and it was difficult to extract any clear guidance from authority.

The starting point seemed to be the decision of the House of Lords in *Singon v Thornton* (1987) 3 App. Cas. 279, an authoritative exposition of the policy of the law then as to the limits of recoverability of damages for unintentionally caused loss see the dissenting judgment of Lord Steyn in *The Greystoke Castle* (1947) AC 365, 305.

His Lordship respectfully questioned whether it was necessarily the right approach to every alleged case of fault liability in negligence to assume first that a duty of care necessarily arose towards every person who could foreseeably suffer loss and then to qualify that approach by only some "policy" considerations (in the sense of some pressing commercial or social justification) could be found to justify its qualification.

It seemed a misreading of Lord Wilberforce's formulation in *Attin* to treat it as laying down a general principle that in all cases a duty of care was the necessary consequence of the fact of foreseeability of damage and that once it was found the court had to give effect to the concomitant duty unless it could discern some policy consideration which appeared to afford a valid ground for restricting it.

Limitation provisions in arbitration contract

Ishtirgi v Ticeret AS v Uzumg

Whether a party could rely on a limitation provision in a contractual arbitration clause depended upon the application of that provision, properly construed in the context of the contract as a whole, having regard to the nature and circumstances of the alleged breach and taking into consideration the significance of the breach in the context of the contract as a whole.

Mr Justice Webster so held in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division on December 4, refusing to grant the plaintiffs (1) a declaration that their claim against the defendant for misdelivery of cargo was not barred under the Commercial arbitration clause,

Law Report December 8 1984

EEC budget deal is an ancillary treaty

Regina v Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Ex parte Smedley
Before Mr Justice Woolf
[Judgment delivered December 7]

An undertaking made by representatives of the governments of the member states of the European Community to make payments to the Community to finance a supplementary and amending budget was a treaty ancillary to a Community treaty within section 1(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 and therefore it was permissible to proceed under section 1(3) by putting a draft Order in Council which referred to the undertaking as a Community treaty before Parliament for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.

Mr Justice Woolf so held in the Queen's Bench Division and in his judgment applied by Mr William Oliver Snedley for judicial review of a determination that the undertakings could properly be regarded as a Community treaty.

Mr Leslie Price, QC, Mr John McDonnell, QC and Mr T. M. Ashe for the applicant; Mr John Laws for the Economic Secretary to the Treasury.

MR JUSTICE WOOLF said that the reason for the application was that the Treasury intended to rely on the members of the European Community on October 2 and 3, 1984 in Luxembourg had entered into an undertaking to pay in 1984 amounts in the form of supplementary and amending budget to finance a draft supplementary and amending budget.

The sum set out against the United Kingdom was equivalent to sterling to a sum in excess of £120 million. Arising from that undertaking the Treasury proposed to pay the amount without obtaining the authority of an Act of Parliament but intended to rely on the procedure by which an Order in Council was approved by both Houses of Parliament.

It was contended on behalf of the applicant that there was no power to adopt that procedure for authorizing payment of the sum and that payment without the authority of an Act of Parliament would be unlawful.

The draft Order in Council was placed before Parliament on or about November 19 but so far the draft had not been considered by either House and had not yet been approved by an affirmative resolution of each House of Parliament. His Lordship considered section 1 of the European Communities Act 1972, which dealt with three classes of treaties. The first class comprised pre-accession treaties. The second contained two classes of post-accession treaties, that is, treaties entered into with or without a member and therefore with or without the United Kingdom and treaties entered into as a treaty ancillary to any treaty by the United Kingdom. With regard to any post-accession treaty entered into by the United Kingdom it was required that it should be specified in an Order in Council and furthermore it should not be regarded as a Community treaty unless so specified and the draft Order in Council had been approved by each House of Parliament.

If the undertaking was properly described as a treaty ancillary to any of the treaties, then on the draft being affirmed by each House, it would be proper for the Treasury to make payment.

The draft Order in Council made it clear that it was being laid pursuant to the provisions of section 1(3) and that the treaty was to be regarded as a Community treaty under section 1(2).

There was no useful authority on the meaning of "ancillary". It was a standing fact that ancillary was largely a word in common usage and its meaning was clear. It was not helpful to define exhaustively what was and what was not ancillary.

What could or could not be described as ancillary was largely a question of fact. Something was ancillary if it was subordinate or incidental to something else. It obviously had to have connection to the subject matter of that to which it was regarded as ancillary.

The EEC Accession Treaty (Cmd 5179-1) dealt with financial provisions and by article 199 provided that all items of revenue and expenditure of the Community should be included in estimates to be drawn up for each financial year and should be shown in the budget, and that the revenue expenditure shown in the budget should be in balance.

The ordinary expenditure of the Community was now derived from the Community's own resources. The way that the financial provisions operated was that certain moneys raised, for example, by value-added tax, was collected by the member states on behalf of the Community.

In respect of 1984 a supplementary budget was submitted by the Community which went before the Council in consequence of the member states entered into the undertaking which resulted in the application.

It was apparent that in the situation where the expenditure of the Community was properly forecast by the budget of a particular year, there was no need to resort to an undertaking, which his Lordship regarded as an agreement, of the sort entered into this year.

If the situation arose so that the expenditure of the Community was not in balance as required by article 199 some method of financing expenditure was required.

The undertaking was reciting the agreement of the member states party to it to deal with a limited and specified situation by making limited and specified payments for the purpose of achieving a requirement which was fundamental to the European Treaty.

The question whether a matter contained in a treaty was ancillary to any of the treaties of the Community was not a matter to be decided by the courts as a matter of law unless it was a situation where what was alleged to be ancillary to any of the treaties was incapable of being categorized as a treaty ancillary to any of the treaties.

Once a draft Order in Council was approved by resolution of each House and made an Order in Council, the fact that it defined a treaty as being ancillary meant that by section 1(3) it should be so regarded.

The courts were not excluded

Queen's Bench Division

EEC budget deal is an ancillary treaty

from considering whether an instrument was capable of being a treaty ancillary to any of the treaties. If a draft Order in Council had been approved by both Houses then the undertaking could properly be implemented by the Treasury by making the payment specified in the undertaking. The undertaking would then be a Community treaty and contain an obligation which the United Kingdom Government could properly meet.

It was quite clear that notwithstanding the fact that approval of the draft Order in Council had been given and an order had been made, the court could still in appropriate circumstances grant relief.

In the present case, Parliament had not yet considered the draft of the proposed Order in Council, although it had been laid before Parliament. It was one of those rare cases where it was appropriate for the court to intervene, that is, a case where it was inappropriate to categorize the instrument as a matter of law as a treaty ancillary to any of the treaties. It was difficult to see the disadvantages in a court indicating that was the situation at the first possible opportunity.

It was undesirable for a court to pronounce upon the question when a draft Order was before the Houses and had not been considered. His Lordship did not regard the situation as being one where the draft Order in Council procedure should not be used for seeking

authority to make the payment referred to in the undertaking.

In future, on an application for leave to apply for judicial review, it would be preferable if the application was at least adjourned in order for Parliament to decide whether or not to make affirmative resolutions.

That was because Parliament might take the view that it was not going to affirm the draft by resolution. If so, an application to the court was unnecessary.

Whether a treaty was ancillary, which was largely a matter of fact, was more appropriate for Parliament to adjudicate on.

There remained the question of *locus standi*. If a preferable procedure was adopted and if the situation was one where the court could be required to consider whether an instrument could be categorized as a treaty ancillary to any of the treaties, then his Lordship would be surprised if a public spirited citizen was prevented from coming before a court to prevent an unconstitutional and unauthorized disposal by the Government of funds.

If the Treasury proposed some action which was an abuse of its power or outside its power altogether which involved a sum being transferred to the Community then the court could intervene.

However, the application would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Bower Cotton & Bower, Treasury Solicitor.

Time limit for appeals

Joyce v Diocese of St Albans
Community Project

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, in dismissing on December 7 an application for leave to appeal from a decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, said:

that under Order 59, rule 4(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court the time limit for serving the notice of appeal was four weeks from the date of the tribunal's decision and not four weeks from the date of the tribunal's grant or refusal of leave to appeal.

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21	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
22	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
23	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
24	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
25	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
26	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
27	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
28	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
29	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
30	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
31	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
32	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
33	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
34	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
35	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
36	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
37	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
38	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
39	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
40	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
41	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
42	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
43	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
44	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
45	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
46	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
47	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
48	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
49	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
50	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
51	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
52	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
53	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
54	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
55	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
56	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
57	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
58	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
59	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
60	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
61	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
62	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
63	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
64	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
65	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
66	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
67	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
68	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
69	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
70	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
71	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
72	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
73	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
74	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
75	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
76	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
77	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
78	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
79	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
80	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
81	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
82	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
83	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
84	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
85	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
86	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
87	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
88	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
89	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
90	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
91	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
92	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
93	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
94	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
95	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
96	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
97	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
98	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
99	British	120	0	10.5	10.5
100	British	120	0	10.5	10.5

1984		1985		1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025		2026		2027		2028		2029		2030		2031		2032		2033		2034		2035		2036		2037		2038		2039		2040		2041		2042		2043		2044		2045		2046		2047		2048		2049		2050		2051		2052		2053		2054		2055		2056		2057		2058		2059		2060		2061		2062		2063		2064		2065		2066		2067		2068		2069		2070		2071		2072		2073		2074		2075		2076		2077		2078		2079		2080		2081		2082		2083		2084		2085		2086		2087		2088		2089		2090		2091		2092		2093		2094		2095		2096		2097		2098		2099		2100		2101		2102		2103		2104		2105		2106		2107		2108		2109		2110		2111		2112		2113		2114		2115		2116		2117		2118		2119		2120		2121		2122		2123		2124		2125		2126		2127		2128		2129		2130		2131		2132		2133		2134		2135		2136		2137		2138		2139		2140		2141		2142		2143		2144		2145		2146		2147		2148		2149		2150		2151		2152		2153		2154		2155		2156		2157		2158		2159		2160		2161		2162		2163		2164		2165		2166		2167		2168		2169		2170		2171		2172		2173		2174		2175		2176		2177		2178		2179		2180		2181		2182		2183		2184		2185		2186		2187		2188		2189		2190		2191		2192		2193		2194		2195		2196		2197		2198		2199		2200		2201		2202		2203		2204		2205		2206		2207		2208		2209		2210		2211		2212		2213		2214		2215		2216		2217		2218		2219		2220		2221		2222		2223		2224		2225		2226		2227		2228		2229		2230		2231		2232		2233		2234		2235		2236		2237		2238		2239		2240		2241		2242		2243		2244		2245		2246		2247		2248		2249		2250		2251		2252		2253		2254		2255		2256		2257		2258		2259		2260		2261		2262		2263		2264		2265		2266		2267		2268		2269		2270		2271		2272		2273		2274		2275		2276		2277		2278		2279		2280		2281		2282		2283		2284		2285		2286		2287		2288		2289		2290		2291		2292		2293		2294		2295		2296		2297		2298		2299		2300		2301		2302		2303		2304		2305		2306		2307		2308		2309		2310		2311		2312		2313		2314		2315		2316		2317		2318		2319		2320		2321		2322		2323		2324		2325		2326		2327		2328		2329		2330		2331		2332		2333		2334		2335		2336		2337		2338		2339		2340		2341		2342		2343		2344		2345		2346		2347		2348		2349		2350		2351		2352		2353		2354		2355		2356		2357		2358		2359		2360		2361		2362		2363		2364		2365		2366		2367		2368		2369		2370		2371		2372		2373		2374		2375		2376		2377		2378		2379		2380		2381		2382		2383		2384		2385		2386		2387		2388		2389		2390		2391		2392		2393		2394		2395		2396		2397		2398		2399		2400		2401		2402		2403		2404		2405		2406		2407		2408		2409		2410		2411		2412		2413		2414		2415		2416		2417		2418		2419		2420		2421		2422		2423		2424		2425		2426		2427		2428		2429		2430		2431		2432		2433		2434		2435		2436		2437		2438		2439		2440		2441		2442		2443		2444		2445		2446		2447		2448		2449		2450		2451		2452		2453		2454		2455		2456		2457		2458		2459		2460		2461		2462		2463		2464		2465		2466		2467		2468		2469		2470		2471		2472		2473		2474		2475		2476		2477		2478		2479		2480		2481		2482		2483		2484		2485		2486		2487		2488		2489		2490		2491		2492		2493		2494		2495		2496		2497		2498		2499		2500		2501		2502		2503		2504		2505		2506		2507		2508		2509		2510		2511		2512		2513		2514		2515		2516		2517		2518		2519		2520		2521		2522		2523		2524		2525		2526		2527		2528		2529		2530		2531		2532		2533		2534		2535		2536		2537		2538		2539		2540		2541		2542		2543		2544		2545		2546		2547		2548		2549		2550		2551		2552		2553		2554		2555		2556		2557		2558		2559		2560		2561		2562		2563		2564		2565		2566		2567		2568		2569		2570		2571		2572		2573		2574		2575		2576		2577		2578		2579		2580		2581		2582		2583		2584		2585		2586		2587		2588		2589		2590		2591		2592		2593		2594		2595		2596		2597		2598		2599		2600		2601		2602		2603		2604		2605		2606		2607		2608		2609		2610		2611		2612		2613		2614		2615		2616		2617		2618		2619		2620		2621		2622		2623		2624		2625		2626		2627		2628		2629		2630		2631		2632		2633		2634		2635		2636		2637		2638		2639		2640		2641		2642		2643		2644		2645		2646		2647		2648		2649		2650		2651		2652		2653		2654		2655		2656		2657		2658		2659		2660		2661		2662		2663		2664		2665		2666		2667		2668		2669		2670		2671		2672		2673		2674		2675		2676		2677		2678		2679		2680		2681		2682		2683		2684		2685		2686		2687		2688		2689		2690		2691		2692		2693		2694		2695		2696		2697		2698		2699		2700		2701		2702		2703		2704		2705		2706		2707		2708		2709		2710		2711		2712		2713		2714		2715		2716		2717		2718		2719		2720		2721		2722		2723		2724		2725		2726		2727		2728		2729		2730		2731		2732		2733		2734		2735		2736		2737		2738		2739		2740		2741		2742		2743		2744		2745		2746		2747		2748		2749		2750		2751		2752		2753		2754		2755		2756		2757		2758		2759		2760		2761		2762		2763		2764		2765		2766		2767		2768		2769		2770		2771		2772		2773		2774		2775		2776		2777		2778		2779		2780		2781		2782		2783		2784		2785		2786		2787		2788		2789		2790		2791		2792		2793		2794		2795		2796		2797		2798		2799		2800		2801		2802		2803		2804		2805		2806		2807		2808		2809		2810		2811		2812		2813		2814		2815		2816		28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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

World oil prices may be heading for a free fall

The debate in the oil industry between analysts and traders is so finely balanced that any prediction about the price of oil is inevitably hedged with reservations. But Sir Peter Baxendale, chairman of Shell Transport and Trading, is as sure as he can reasonably be that if the price does start falling significantly in the critical second quarter of 1985, it would not easily or quickly stabilize at a lower level. He foresees "a free fall", unlike some Americans who think in terms of a levelling-off at \$25 a barrel. His prediction rests essentially on the very low cost of producing Middle East oil in relation to price.

The next question would be whether the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) would succeed "in getting their act together". An attempt would be made to make deep cuts in production quotas in order not to let prices fall further, but stabilize them at a higher level. The political implications of a big drop in oil prices, not least in this country where many of the Government's hopes rest on North Sea oil revenues, are not easy to exaggerate.

Meanwhile, the market situation is fluid. The Opec production cuts agreed in October had certainly taken effect in November, when production was below demand. The stock position is much less clear: the analysts argue that there is not too much fat in the tanks; the traders are not saying anything.

Statistical, the Norwegian state oil company, yesterday put off fixing its December crude oil price, blaming "the current uncertainty surrounding oil prices", and at the same time promising its customers "a market-related price". BNO, which is now squeezed badly between an unresponsive market and the participation agreements that are the basis of its relationship with the major oil companies, has also promised a pricing formula that will take more account of the spot market, though where the bulk of oil trading is now done.

Mild weather in the northern hemisphere has not helped the price structure (though snow was reported from Pennsylvania this week). The fact that prices in the spot market have remained below official prices reflects both an uncertainty on the part of buyers and a determination among Opec countries actually to sell the lower quota of oil each has agreed to observe.

The concerns of Opec, which meets again on December 19, do not end there. In Sir Peter's opinion the problems of agreeing satisfactory price differentials for different grades of oil are even more difficult to resolve than market prices. Light crudes are overpriced in relation to heavy crudes by perhaps \$1.5 per barrel. With producers' dependence on different grades varying, the prospect of agreement among them is hardly bright.

Legal & General leads pensions challenge

The pensions industry is now engaged on two campaigns vital to its future to ensure that government proposals for portable pensions produce some sort of workable system, and to head off any thoughts in the Chancellor's mind of ending the various tax reliefs that lie at the heart of the pensions business, until now, however, the intimate connection between these two has not been properly explored.

The Legal & General group has now remedied this in the most challenging way. L & G, unlike some others, is enthusiastic about introducing some form of portable pensions. It stresses, however, that the Government will have to improve its tentative proposals if personal pensions are to become popular. Mr John Craddock, the group's pensions director said: "As it stands, the deal that would be offered to people who are not in occupational schemes is just not good enough to encourage them to take up the

option of running their own pension plan."

If employees are to be attracted into personal pensions, it is vital, according to L & G, that people should have the benefit of immediate tax deductibility for contributions, perhaps on a system similar to the Miras scheme for housebuyers.

More controversially, Mr Craddock believes that personal pensions will not be attractive unless the option to take a tax-free lump sum on retirement is maintained. L & G suggests that employees who opt for personal pensions should be able to choose their date of retirement, say between 60 and 75. This, said Mr Craddock, "means leaving them free to take their tax-free lump sums, which should be set at one third of the total investment, either in a single payment or in a series of payments whenever they choose."

This would rule out plans to tax lump sums. "But if the Government wants a success on its hands among the country's 11 million pension have-nots, it is a price they must be willing to pay."

This marks an embarrassing challenge to the stance of the pensions lobby, which appears to be offering tax on lump sums as a sacrificial offering to persuade the Chancellor not to tax pension contributions or investment returns.

Legal & General's response to Mr Norman Fowler's consultative document sums exactly why top executives at Unilever, and probably many other companies and parts of the public sector, are now queuing up to retire early in front of the Chancellor's next Budget. Lump sum tax may not matter to the pensions industry. But it matters an awful lot to individuals who have saved through the pension system and now see their only opportunity of turning that saving into capital in danger.

'Big Bang' under pressure

Pressure in the City seems to be growing to turn the Stock Exchange's "Big Bang" into two or more smaller explosions. In particular, influential voices are being raised behind closed doors in favour of the argument that the world at large should not have to wait the best part of two years before the many pending mergers are consummated.

Almost every leading stockbroker has by now arranged a deal with would-be parent from outside the stock market. These typically take the form of a sale of 29.9 per cent of the broker's equity, with a statement of intent to raise the holding to anything from 50 per cent to 100 per cent when the Stock Exchange rules permit.

The assumption has been that this change will take place, along with others such as abandoning fixed commissions on securities transactions, on Big Bang Day. But that day may not be until the autumn of 1986.

That seemed a neat and tidy approach when the transformation was originally conceived, in the latter part of last year. But practicalities have a habit of impinging. And the practical problem is that the City is now littered with tentative groupings hamstrung by the inability to progress to full mergers. Even where the putative partners are cooperating to the full, there are bound to be certain strategic decisions which cannot be taken. In many cases, the terms which the next tranche of equity changes hands will depend on short-term profit performance, possibly at the expense of long-term considerations.

In some cases this will not make a great deal of difference. But the present situation must favour those organizations - principally American and Japanese - who have refrained from buying into existing, broking firms, presumably preferring to hire individuals who will meet their requirements as and when the starting gun goes off.

Arab trade war feared by EEC

By John Lawless

The EEC yesterday was given a warning of a trade war with Arab countries if it continues to maintain barriers against imports from Saudi Arabia's new petrochemical industries. The general secretaries of the Arab-European Chambers of Commerce, which represent companies involved in the Middle East, went into an "emergency meeting" in Paris after receiving a memorandum on the issue from Saudi Arabia.

The Chambers of Commerce said in a statement: "If such policies were to continue, Arab countries may apply reciprocal measures towards their imports from the EEC." They would look elsewhere for their purchases, it said.

EFC exports to Saudi Arabia alone are worth more than £16.5 billion a year.

Gregory can reduce bid for Glanfield

By Our City Staff

The City Takeover Panel has agreed to allow Mr Jim Gregory, chairman of Queens Park Rangers Football Club, to reduce his bid for Glanfield. The motor distributor, because the company had been "too optimistic" in its forecast of profits for this year.

It is the second time in a month the Panel has agreed to release a company from the rule that a bid, once made, must be struck to.

Mr David Abell's Suter was allowed a similar dispensation last month when it became apparent that Francis Industries, the packaging and motor components manufacturer, would fail to meet its forecast.

The Panel is allowing Mr Gregory to reduce his bid from £3.1 million to £2.8 million or from the offered 35p a share to 49.5p a share.

The Panel said 49.5p a share was the highest price Mr Gregory had offered for shares in Glanfield before the company put out its erroneous profits forecast on October 26. It was only after this date that Mr Gregory incurred an obligation under City rules to bid at 55p.

Two months ago the Panel criticized Mr Gregory for "inadvertently and after seeking advice" breaching the takeover code.

Sharp fall in US jobless as consumer spending rises

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The rate of unemployment in the United States dropped sharply last month, suggesting a significant improvement in the economy after the third quarter slowdown. The civilian unemployment rate dropped to 7.2 per cent in November, from 7.4 per cent in September and October, and 8.4 per cent in November last year.

The fall, which resulted from a 286,000 rise in employment, mainly in retailing and other services, suggests a recovery in consumer spending. Manufacturing, which did not feature in the employment rise, remains weak.

Average weekly earnings recovered from their low October levels, again suggesting a recovery in consumer spending. US bond markets, fearful that stronger growth will force a rise in interest rates, fell on the

figures, with long bonds down by a point.

The unemployment news came as Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, called for a further relaxation of monetary policy by the Federal Reserve Board.

Mr Reagan predicted sluggish US growth in the fourth quarter. "I think it will be a shade better than the third quarter but not that much," he said.

Gross national product grew by an annualized 1.9 per cent in the third quarter, after 7.1 per cent in the second quarter. Before the presidential election, Mr Reagan predicted 4 per cent annualized growth in the fourth quarter.

Mr Reagan said that the Federal Reserve should further loosen its control on the money supply and ease down interest



Martin Feldstein: no recession next year

rates to ensure a rebound in the economy. However, most economists argue that the relaxation of policy by the Fed in the autumn has not yet fully come through and that any additional loosening would be inflationary. In London yesterday, Mr

Martin Feldstein, formerly chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, predicted a slight uptick in inflation for 1985 and a slowdown in growth, but no recession.

Mr Feldstein, a persistent critic of high US budget deficits before he quit as chairman of the council in July, noted a more realistic approach to reducing the deficit since the November 6 election.

In a White House press conference yesterday, President Reagan reaffirmed that he would not raise taxes to reduce the budget deficit. He came close to a full endorsement of the US Treasury's plan for simplifying the tax system, calling the "basically a fine proposal."

The President said that he was flexible on spending cuts, and that the spending review would include the defence budget.

Lonrho has 6.3% stake in Fraser

Lonrho, the international mining, casino and hotels group, yesterday announced it had built a stake in the House of Fraser of more than 5 per cent. A Lonrho spokesman said later that its Fraser holding was 6.3 per cent. The move comes just a month after Lonrho sold a 29.9 per cent Fraser stake for £138 million to the Alfrayed Investment and Trust company.

Lonrho's chairman, Lord Duncan-Sandys, and its chief executive, Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, have said they will resign from the Fraser board at the end of this month.

Some of the nine million Fraser shares picked up recently by Lonrho almost certainly came from the family trusts of Sir Hugh Fraser, the stores group's former chairman. He has been a declared seller of the stock for some time and recently sold 1.6 million shares from the Fraser Foundation.

Fraser's price was unchanged at 300p in the market last night. It has barely moved for some weeks.

Phillips & Drew 'top broker'

By Philip Robinson

Phillips & Drew yesterday emerged as the City's top overall stockbroker for the quality of its research, presentation and market knowledge. It was ranked first by finance directors of top British companies in a new survey sponsored by the Association of Corporate Treasurers and Chase Manhattan Bank.

Of the 30 brokers covered, Phillips & Drew, which has just announced a link with the Union Bank of Switzerland, scored a 50.8 per cent of the total votes. The ACT/Chase survey was based on replies from 157 finance directors, a 29 per cent response rate on the 551 questionnaires sent out. Replies came from directors whose companies stock market capitalizations averaged £557 million.

Best Broker overall

1 Phillips & Drew	50.8%
2 Sprague, Kemp-Gee	41.7%
3 Hoare Govett	38.8%
4 Fowles & Pittman	33.3%
5 James Capel & Co	32.9%
6 De Zoete & Bevan	32.5%
7 Gresson, Grant & Co	32.0%
8 W Gessell & Co	28.8%
9 Laing & Crutchfield	27.4%
10 Fielding, Newson-Smith & Co	25.8%

A rival survey, sponsored by the Continental Illinois Bank, ranks the British brokers on the views of fund managers. The two have shown up significant differences, although eight broking firms appear in both top 10 places.

Second place in both surveys is taken by Sprague, Kemp-Gee. Third place in ACT/Chase went to Hoare Govett, which,

under the Continental survey, was knocked out of the top 10 this year.

In grading individual analysts in their sectors, Laing & Crutchfield managed two first places. Its Mr John Tyce came top in banks and financials, with Mr Fred Willings in building and construction.

Others placed first in their sector were Mr Charles Lambert of Buckmaster & Moore for chemicals, health and household products; Mr Graham Meek of Wood MacKenzie for electricals and electronics; Mr Hector Sants of Phillips & Drew on food and tobacco; Mr Peter Olsen of Kitcat & Aitken on insurance, life composite and brokers; Mr Lee Mortimer of Hoare Govett on mechanical engineering.

Mr Michael Unsworth of Scott Giff Layton on oil, and Mr Peter Hardy of Rowe & Pitman on property.

US backing for Dunlop investors

By Ian Griffiths

The Dunlop Shareholders Association has won the backing of an American investor holding 7.3 million shares in the struggling tyre and industrial products group.

It is a significant boost for the campaign to keep dilution of equity investment to a minimum when Dunlop's long-awaited capital reconstruction is announced. The association speaks for more than 6 per cent of the group's share capital.

The extra shares are held by Mr Ronald Haave, an investment adviser in New York, on behalf of his clients. He has agreed in principle to give the association financial support of "several thousand dollars".

Mr Haave said last night: "I came away feeling frightened by the situation. If it had happened in the US, I would have called in the Securities and Exchange Commission immediately."

Professor Robert Frichard, a spokesman for the association, welcomed this new support.

He said: "This moves us closer to obtaining a blocking vote at the extraordinary general meeting where the capital reconstruction must obtain shareholders' approval." The association has contracted only those shareholders with more than 5,000 shares.

Fleet takeover

Express Newspapers, part of Fleet Holdings, is expanding its regional newspaper business with the acquisition of the *Cornish and Devon Post*. Because the circulation is below 25,000 a report from the Monopolies Commission is not needed.

Reed Eurobond

Reed International, the paper group, is making a £50 million 10-year Eurobond issue - the initial tranche is £30 million - carrying an annual coupon of 11 1/2 per cent.

Argentine loan

British bankers fly to Zurich on Thursday to discuss Argentina's new loan of \$4.2 billion (£3.5 billion), because Argentina's economy minister, Senator Bernardo Grinspun, is unable to come to London.

Rise for Post

Bristol Evening Post, the newspaper publishing group with retail and property interests, has increased pretax profits for the six months to September 30 from £774,000 to £1.4 million. Turnover rose from £18 million to £19.9 million. The interim dividend has been increased from 4p to 7.5p to reduce disparity with the final dividend.

Temps, page 23

AN OFFER FROM M&G UNIT TRUSTS

Unit trusts provide the best way for most people to share in the rewards and risks of the stockmarket. They are run by full-time professionals and the risks are minimised by investing in a wide spread of shares, held by a Trustee.

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M&G (who founded unit trusts in Britain) are involved in the management of funds totalling some £2,500 million. The six Funds described may have particular appeal in the present investment climate.

AMERICAN RECOVERY A speculative Fund with the sole objective of capital growth over the long term, investing in those US and Canadian shares which M&G consider undervalued in the stockmarket. Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. There are no distributions and income is automatically reinvested. Unit holders receive reports in June and December.

COMPOUND GROWTH The Fund invests for capital growth in a compact portfolio of shares in companies with proven management, but a proportion may be invested in the Unlisted Securities Market (USM). Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. There are no distributions and income is automatically reinvested. Unit holders receive reports in June and December.

DIVIDEND Aims for a yield about 50% higher than that of the FT Actuaries All-Share Index. The Fund is suitable for investors needing a high and steadily increasing income with prospects of capital growth as well; indeed, the total gross dividend in the current year on an investment of £1,000 at the Fund launch (1984) is £288. Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. Distributions: 15th January and 15th July (next distribution for new investors 15th July 1985).

FAR EASTERN AND GENERAL Invests for long-term capital growth in Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and other countries of the Pacific Basin. Its price performance has put this Fund among Britain's leading unit trusts on many occasions since its launch. Trustee: Lloyds Bank Plc. Distributions: 10th April and 10th October (next distribution for new investors 10th April 1985).

INTERNATIONAL GROWTH The Fund invests for capital growth through the active management of a small, international portfolio of shares. Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. Distributions: 20th March and 20th September (next distribution for new investors 20th March 1985).

RECOVERY Invests for capital growth in companies which have fallen on hard times, a "speculative" policy which has proved outstandingly successful in the past. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic. Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. Distributions: 20th February and 20th August (next distribution for new investors 20th February 1985).

READ THIS TABLE BEFORE INVESTING	AMERICAN RECOVERY	COMPOUND GROWTH	DIVIDEND	FAR EASTERN	INTERNATIONAL GROWTH	RECOVERY
Launch date and price equivalent	July '79 50p	Dec '68 50p	May '64 50p	Sep '73 50p	Dec '67 100p	May '69 16p
Price of Income units at 5th Dec. 1984 and estimated current gross yield	194.8p x d 1.22%	301.5p** 3.35%	278.4p x d 5.80%	152.5p 1.67%	647.9p 3.35%	219.9p 3.81%
% change in Fund offer price since launch	+289.2%	+503.0%	+456.8%	+205.0%	+547.9%	+1274.4%
% change in FT All Share Index since same period	+60.29%	+233.5%	+430.1%	+147.7%	+359.4%	+281.7%

*Standard & Poor's Industrial Index. **Only Accumulation units available with Compound Growth. NB FT Actuaries All-Share Index does not include reinvested income. †The Straits Times Index. ‡National launch price for income units because only Accumulation units available at Fund launch.

Prices and yields appear daily in the FT. An initial charge of 4% is included in the offer price; an annual charge of a maximum of 1% of each Fund's value - currently 14% - plus VAT is deducted from gross income (currently 14% for Dividend). Increasing to 14% in September 1985. All the above Funds are available with both Income and Accumulation units except Compound Growth which only offers Accumulation units. Distributions for income units are made on the appropriate dates and are reinvested for Accumulation units to increase the value of the unit. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement 2 or 3 weeks later. Redemption is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. All the Funds are wider range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Telephone: 04-262 4588.

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THE M&G GROUP

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Share recovery gives healthy end to account

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Shares ended the British Telecom account yesterday on a high note. After three lacklustre days, the market recaptured some of its old exuberance, encouraged by the Government's hopes of tax cuts and a better showing by Wall Street.

At the close, the FT 30 share index was riding comfortably at 923 points, up 14.6 points and the FT-SE share index was 14.3 points better at 1,190.1 points. Both are back near their all-time highs.

BT itself ended its first week of quoted life in good spirits. It jumped 4 1/2 p to 92 1/2 p in- once again, active trading. General Electric Company, reported to be a keen buyer of BT shares as well as its own, shaded 2p to 228p.

But Government stocks missed the excitement. They recorded falls of up to 1 1/2 p in dull trading.

New-time buying was a significant influence on equities with many of the takeover favourites - old and new - recording sharp progress.

Imperial Chemical Industries and Glaxo Group moved ahead on American interest and Hanson Trust jumped 12p to 291p on further appreciation of its figures.

BICC and BTR were among other FT 30 constituents in fine form. But the atmosphere around BOC Group was soft with stock on offer.

Trident Television jumped 12p to 172p on talk that a bid will soon be mounted by Stakis, the Scottish leisure group.

Since it was effectively forced to give up its TV activities, Trident has derived most of its income from running four London casinos.

In March last year a bid from Pleasman lapsed when the deal was referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Stakis has made no secret of its desire to expand in London and the South. It already runs 17 provincial casinos and has so far just one in London. Mr John Loughery, Stakis managing director, was not available for comment yesterday.

Imperial Group jumped 8p to 178p on talk of a cheerful stockbroker's circular and suggestions that the 2.7 per cent mystery shareholding, thought to be held by Hanson Trust, had been sold.

The group could also be near to clinching the sale of Howard Johnson, its troublesome American catering and hotel group. Any deal would wipe out loans borrowings and replenish its coffers for a takeover bid on its own account.

Trusthouse Forte was 23p higher at 140 as the Kuwait Investment Office revealed a 5 per cent shareholding.

On a lively brewing pitch Bass surged 17p to a high of 453p on further thoughts about its year's profits. Its strength helped other breweries higher.

Granada Group, the television, rentals to bingo halls business, picked up pennies yesterday, rising 4p to 180p. Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, put a "buy" tag on the shares after taking a look at this week's full-year profits.

The broker reckons Granada has a couple of "strong growth" years ahead of it, and deserves a better rating. Rediffusion is expected to bring significant benefits, while overseas rental business - apart from the US market - is progressing.

Johnson Group Cleaners fell 1p to 438p as Nottingham Manufacturing, which is bidding 440p a share for the dry cleaning group, continued to pick up shares in the market. By Thursday night it had 7 per cent of the shares. It's bid closes on Friday, December 19.

Checkpoint Europe, a recent USM arrival, surged 38p to 223p as it revealed takeover talks were in progress. The shares have seen-sawed in the past two days on bid rumours. Before being elevated to the USM, Checkpoint, which makes electronics security tags, was traded under the special dealing facility rule. At one time the shares hit 530p.

Thermal Scientific, makers of laboratory furnaces, rose 10p to 235p as it disclosed plans to pay £4.1 million for Centor Associates, which produces high temperature electric furnaces, and £1.6 million for Betol Holdings, makers of machines for the extrusion of thermoplastic materials. The deals, which double the size of the group, are being financed by placing 1.8 million shares at 200p each and by issuing about 1 million shares to the vendors.

Mr Hugh Sykes, the TS chairman, accompanied the takeover deals with interim profits 30 per cent higher at £263,000.

The company apparently opted for a share placing

Tempus Candover to cut tax bill by going public

When is a share listing not a share listing? When coming to the public lists is the best way of cutting your capital gains tax bill.

Candover Investments, the management buyout and investment team spawned by the Electra and Globe investment trusts four years ago, is coming to the stock market via a placing by Candover & Co, the stockbroker. Mr Roger Brooke, the chief executive of Candover, says the main object of going public is to allow the company to apply for investment trust status for tax purposes.

Mr Brooke is confident such status will be granted, and so allow his group to cash in on some of its highly successful investments without incurring CGT.

From Candover's point of view, this move is eminently sensible. It has stakes worth £1.9 million and £1.75 million in DPCE Holdings and Stone International, respectively, close on 30 per cent of the whole of Candover's net asset value.

But while Candover's tactics in saving its profits from the taxman in a thoroughly above-board way can only be commended, it does not look as though the average investor will be able to get close to those profits.

Candover is placing just 25 per cent of the company - the minimum allowed for a full listing, and "full" status is necessary if the company is to get the investment trust tag - at 160p a share.

The placing price puts a market value of £11.45 million on Candover, but some two-thirds of the placing goes to selected institutions - selected by Candover - and less than 500,000 will be placed with the jobbers. A few lucky private individuals, also clients of Candover, will get the rest.

According to Mr Brooke, the theory is that a suitable premium on the shares when dealings begin will bring sellers out of the woodwork. He says: "I will be surprised if there is not a brisk market in the shares."

But another theory is that the jobbers will see little business over the long term, and that Candover's shares will stay largely in the hands of that select band of institutions, just as if the stock market listing happened.

Bristol Evening Post

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COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

- **GRAINGER TRUST:** Final dividend 4p making 5.25p (4.2p) for the year to September 30. (Figures in £000). Turnover 4,718 (3,353). Pretax profit 1,622 (1,216) after property expenses 1,390 (942), management expenses 308 (245) and interest 1,398 (950). Tax 755 (595). Minorities 10 (10). Attributable 856 (611). Earnings per share 19.7p (14.1p).
- **WINDSOR SECURITIES (Holdings):** Final dividend 0.75p making 1.25p (0.75p) for year to September 30. (Figures in £000). Turnover 741 (643). Pretax profit 296 (265). Tax charge 127. Earnings per share 2.2p (3.8p).
- **KALAMAZOO:** The chairman, Mr W F Younger, said at the annual meeting that the interim results for 1984/85 would follow a similar trend to those of 1983/84.
- **CH BAILEY:** No dividend. (Figures in £000). Turnover 5163 (8083) for period to March 30, 1984. Pretax profit 12 (538 loss). Tax 7 (28 credit). Extraordinary debit 2207 (5428). Minorities 32 credit (530). Loss attributable to shareholders 2170 (5407 loss). Loss per share 3.62p (9.02p). Figures include exceptional credit of 392 which is a rates refund for previous years.
- **CENTURY OILS:** The board proposes to acquire certain assets of Michael Walkers Industries, an American company, for \$2.7 million (£2.2 million). The acquisition will be financed partly by the issue of ordinary shares and short-dated preferential shares of a subsidiary in the US and partly by cash.
- **LOMBARD NORTH CENTRAL:** (figures in £ million) turnover 1960.1 (1657.7) for year to September 30, pretax profits 77.9 (72), tax 57.8 credit (46.4), transfers from special reserve 31.4 (81.1), minorities 4.9 (2.1), extraordinary debit 374.2 (nil).
- **PERICOM:** Final 1.3p making 2.0p against 1.7p forecast for year to September 30. (Figures in £000). Turnover 7,922 (7,203). pretax profit 1,201 (983). tax 504 (239). extraordinary items 142 (nil) provision for deferred tax. EPS 9.3p (10.3p).
- **STOCK CONVERSION:** The company completed the purchase of White City stadium in London for £1.7 million. Demolition of the stadium is due early next year. Approaches have come from potential occupiers of the 17-acre site.

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Williams & Glyn's	9 1/2%
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* Mortgage Base Rate.
* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6 1/2%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 7 1/2%; £50,000 and over, 8%.

US lures Britons with cheap holidays

Last week we looked at perks available to shareholders in British companies. This week Eamonn Fingleton highlights what is available to investors in American shares.

A discount of 10 per cent on bookings at one of America's biggest budget-price hotel chains; up to 25 per cent off a cruise on a Mississippi paddle steamer; a 15 per cent discount on a weekend celebrating Thanksgiving Day.

These are some of the perks that Britons with shares in some American companies can take advantage of if they plan a holiday in the United States. US corporations are waking up to the benefits of giving shareholders something more than a dividend cheque.

Many American companies now shower new shareholders with free samples. These "brown-bag" gifts, whose brand names include Prince Matchabelli, Vaseline, Prince tennis equipment and Bass shoes, estimates its freebies are worth



about \$65 (£54) at retail prices.

Other companies supply discounts on mail-order purchases. A recent offer from the Beatrice company was a three-piece luggage set made by its Samsonite subsidiary for a discount of \$140 off the usual retail price of \$340.

Mr William Dunk, a Madison Avenue shareholder relations consultant, says a

SHAREHOLDERS' PERKS

rising tide of "greenmail", the Wall Street technique by which corporate raiders force vulnerable companies to agree to share transactions on unfavourable terms. Anything that fosters the shareholders' loyalty is regarded as useful in buttressing existing management.

"Companies become vulnerable when their prices fall," says the treasurer of one firm which offers a popular shareholder perk scheme. "A week share price lets a corporate raider buy an influential stake on the cheap and creates an anti-management feeling among other investors. Shareholders' perks attract small shareholders in the first place and help keep them on board when the going gets rough."

Most American companies limit benefits to investors resident in the US but some offers are open to foreign shareholders. Here are some available to British investors:

● **Ramada Inns:** a discount of around 10 per cent off the bill at most of the chain's 425 hotels

and a free transfer to the best room available.

● **Amfac:** a discount of 30 per cent for two weeks in April at an Amfac hotel located where the company is holding its annual meeting. This is either an Hawaiian resort or a mainland US city.

● **Delta Queen Steamboat Company:** shareholders qualify for a discount of at least 15 per cent on steamboat trips at most times of the year. A 25 per cent discount applies in the off-season - between November and February - when boats confine themselves to the lower reaches of the Mississippi.

● **CSX:** Weekends at the Greenbrier hotel and resort complex in West Virginia with a 15 per cent discount. And opportunities for tennis, horse riding and outdoor activities. One trip is held over Thanksgiving weekend at the end of November.

Most British stockbrokers can arrange to buy American shares. More detailed information is available if you buy through a Wall Street firm.

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When life insurance may not be enough

Many of us think about the consequences of losing the family breadwinner and some will wisely take out life insurance. But consider the consequences of the breadwinner not being able to work, with no compensating life insurance. In that situation, you need permanent health insurance (PHI) to keep the family secure.

It is often stated in insurance circles that barely 7 per cent of the working population of 26 million people have permanent health insurance. And yet (another popular statistic) a young man has three times more chance of being permanently disabled before the age of 65 than he does of dying before he reaches that age.

There is nothing the insurance companies can do about that last statistic except sell more PHI. The products themselves involve various conditions dependent on age, sex, occupation, and the nature of the disability. If you consider buying such a policy, make sure you check every detail.

Disability, which, for the benefit to be paid in full must be total, is generally classified by insurers as "being unable to follow his or her normal occupation and following no other". Certain causes of disability like war or self-inflicted injury, are excluded.

Pregnancy is excluded from all policies too. There are some companies however, such as National Employers' Life (NEL), Imperial Phoenix and Scottish Mutual, who will pay benefit if the illness continues three months after the birth.

Being a cautious lot, insurance companies will be especially wary of any profession that carries a degree of risk. So while the white collar occupations (doctors, dentists and clerical workers) are the most acceptable, anyone who is a professional parachutist, steepjack or bomb disposal expert will be told politely to look elsewhere for cover. Miners working on the surface

INDIVIDUAL PERMANENT HEALTH INSURANCE - BEST BUYS

For a policy paying benefit of £5,000 pa on disability. Thirteen week deferred period to age 65 male (60 female). Grade 4 occupation.

	Annual premium (paid monthly)				Minimum deferred period	Cash limit	Partial disability?
	Age 25 years		Age 45 years				
	Male	Female	Male	Female			
	£	£	£	£	weeks	£	yes/no
Continental Life	80.40	115.20	223.44	328.68	4	30,000pa	Yes
Friends Provident	83.40	104.16	206.64	231.96	4	4500w	Yes
London Life	73.28	75.28	184.87	189.21	13	40,000pa	No
NEL	81.44	107.16	192.08	237.38	13	30,000pa	Yes
Norwich Union	89.28	82.04	197.76	193.56	4	4000w	Yes
Permanent Insurance	69.00	80.76	169.08	183.76	4	6000w	Yes
Prudential Assurance	90.00	97.20	200.40	218.04	4	25,000pa	No
Zurich Life	82.20	98.28	196.20	197.40	4	5000w	Yes
Clerical Medical	60.00	70.08	195.56	251.40	13	40,000pa	No

For a policy under the same conditions, except on a grade 4 occupation, the following rates would apply

Continental Life	111.96	146.64	255.00	360.24
Friends Provident	108.84	129.80	232.52	257.76
Norwich Union	120.24	118.04	272.08	248.04
NEL	90.60	129.84	208.40	308.64
Permanent	108.72	133.68	219.60	258.92
Zurich Life	111.00	127.08	225.00	226.20

Source: Money Management

might be able to find a sympathetic insurer, but not face workers.

The most controversial aspect of this market is the automatic premium loadings placed on female applicants. The only companies that will even consider insuring housewives are Commercial Union, Norwich Union, Permanent and Phoenix. The loading for working women is as much as 50 per cent extra on the basic premium for men.

The insurers justify this by saying that women are more prone to bouts of illness and infirmity, without exception it seems. A legal battle is soon to

commence between a female dentist (backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission) and Friends' Provident Life Office. She is challenging the life company's right to charge her 50 per cent more than one of her male counterparts and if she wins there is likely to be some drastic rerating in this market.

Variances in premium will also occur depending on the deferred period chosen. This is the insurer's grace period between the onset of disability and the first benefit payment. In theory at least, the longer the deferred period the lower the premium will be.

London Life, whose premium rates are highly competitive, will not generally allow deferred periods of less than 13 weeks. Permanent, hot on its heels is slightly less strict allowing 4 weeks.

Actual benefit payable under an individual PHI policy will be limited to 75 per cent on the insured's previous earnings, including state or any other sickness or retirement benefit.

In most cases the assessment will include only benefit payable to the insured. A cash limit on policy benefit is also set which is worth double checking if your usual income is especially high, or fluctuating.

Just over half the companies in the survey include an option to increase the sum insured without further medical evidence, to make sure the policy maintains its value. This option is usually only available to policyholders under 45 years old. Although the benefits rise there is a price to pay. Both benefits and premiums may be linked to rises in the Retail Price Index.

Companies listed quoted the most competitive rates in a survey carried out in the current issue of *Money Management*. One scheme, introduced this summer by Continental Life, offers a tax-free lump sum at the end of the policy term: a sort of with-profits PHI, which provides possibly a better incentive for buying PHI in the first place.

Richard Newell

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We guarantee to turn £500 of penny shares into £1,000 in just six weeks.



At 9pm on Thursday 21st February 1985 we'll prove, conclusively, that it is still possible to double your money in just six weeks by investing in penny shares.

THE EXPERT'S EXPERT

Stockmarket Confidential (or SMC for short) is a rather unassuming looking news sheet which is sent, by first class post, every Wednesday evening. Despite its innocuous appearance it is eagerly read on Thursday morning by a handful of investors up and down the country.

Some of these investors will be professional stockbrokers, based in industry and other leading financial experts. Between them they may control, literally, millions of pounds.

Others will be smaller, private investors - sometimes with as little as £500 or £1,000 with which to speculate.

But what every reader of Stockmarket Confidential has in common is the desire to discover what is likely to happen on the stock market that coming week.

Simply, they want to know which shares are going to go up, and which shares are going to come down. And they want to know why.

THE SECRET OF INVESTMENT SUCCESS

The only way to make money on the stock market is to have reliable advice and the ability to move fast, before the word gets around and prices rocket.

In Stockmarket Confidential we make buying and selling recommendations, offer sound investment analysis and, most important of all, suggest one or more "Hot Tips" for the week.

If you haven't acted on our "Hot Tips" by Thursday lunchtime you've missed the boat - other SMC subscribers will have already pushed prices up.

You'll discover that very often the best investments are the "bunny shares"... Shares Exp in just 42 days... Bellair Cosmetics from 22p to £10.50... Dollands Photographic from 27p to £3.25... just three examples from a long list of recently successful "penny shares".

WHY YOU CAN ACT WITH SUCH CONFIDENCE

Each week the editor of SMC chairs a private meeting of the SMC Board of Advisors. Together these financial specialists pool information, validate sources, and discuss the latest City whispers. At the end of the meeting they will have chosen the three hottest tips and decided whether or not to sell shares previously recommended.

We guarantee that none of these tips will be leaked by the SMC Editorial Board, or published, except in SMC.

HOW WE WILL PROVE THE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE

As we've already explained, we believe it is still regularly possible to double your money in as little as six weeks by trading in penny shares.

In order to prove it we will enter your name in our next Free Prize Draw which takes place on

PROFIT RECORD SINCE 19th SEPTEMBER 1984

It's all very well knowing what to buy - the real secret is knowing what to sell. This is our full "sell" record since the 19th September 1984.

Share	Stamps	Bought	Sold	% Gain
Lennon Group	27p	38p	54p	54%
Ratcliffe GB	66p	1.17p	1.91p	191%
Chubb & Co.	1.28p	2.80p	1.97p	197%
Urban Walker	1.50p	1.50p	1.50p	14%
Daily Peckling	1.40p	1.40p	1.40p	58%
Manchester Ship Canal	1.40p	2.40p	3.00p	85%
SSC International	1.10p	1.10p	1.10p	95%
C.B. Bailey	1.10p	1.10p	1.10p	198%
London & Commercial	27p	1.56p	4.68p	468%
Buildings	2.40p	4.36p	4.36p	78%
Colson Stores	40p	40p	40p	48%
Ellen & Rubins	40p	40p	40p	128%
Ryan Beale	1.80p	1.80p	1.80p	31%
Haynes Publishing	1.80p	2.80p	2.80p	31%

* All percentage gains allow for dealing costs.

4th January 1985, all you need do is complete and return the coupon below.

If you win, you'll receive £2500 to spend or invest as you please.

We'd suggest that you invest it in any one of our "Hot Tips" for that week. Because if you do, and your £2500 of shares aren't worth £1,000 by 21st February 1985, we'll make up the difference in cash.

That's right, we're so confident that our advice is sound we believe that £2500 will be worth £1,000 in just six weeks!

So anyone is welcome to enter this Free Prize Draw. No purchase is necessary. Full rules on request.

Without obligation

Please send to: STOCKMARKET CONFIDENTIAL, 57/61 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7TD. It will cost you nothing to discover how profitable the information in SMC can be. Order your six free issues and enter the Free Prize Draw today!

Please enter me in the £1000 Free Prize Draw

Please send me FREE

"How to make more money on the stock market" (Shareholders only)

If I decide to subscribe I will receive my first year's subscription for just £7.95

SAVE £72!

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SM67

This Christmas give the gift and the taxman

How your gift

FAMILY MONEY

Safety first

With household contents insurance premiums rising in metropolitan areas, it might be worth considering a safe deposit box for your valuables as a means of reducing the cost of insurance.

The latest to offer this service is the Belgrave Safe Deposit, in Chester Mews, near Hyde Park Corner - very handy for picking up your jewels on the way to Buckingham Palace.

The safe deposit is open from 9am to 5pm daily and from 12 noon to 5pm on Sundays. If you sign up now you will get special concessional rates. A 60mm box costs £150 a year including VAT. A 300mm box costs £245 a year.

Anyone taking a box before January 31 will receive a mug of Champagne. Details from the Belgrave Safe Deposit, 9 Chester Mews, London SW1X 7AJ. Tel: 01-245 6744.

Good deal for young

One of the best deals around for children's savings is the 10 per cent paid by Sheffield Building Society on its Children's High Interest Account. A parent or grandparent has to be an

investor too for the child to qualify and there is a maximum investment on the account of £500. Details from Sheffield Building Society, 66 Campo Lane, Sheffield S1 2EG.

Growth bond

Pinnacle Insurance is offering a five-year guaranteed income or growth bond paying 8.5 per cent net of basic rate tax. The minimum investment is £1,000. Full details are available from Pinnacle Insurance, 312 High Road, London N15 4BX. Tel: 01-801 3361.

Gold Card profile

About 88 per cent of American Express's Gold Card holders are male, 89 per cent are married and on average they have 2.1 children. Just over 40 per cent are self-employed and nearly two-thirds are company directors or partners. About 20 per cent are in finance and insurance, 17 per cent in service industries and 15 per cent in manufacturing.

One in five owns two homes and there are generally two cars in the garage. Four out of ten have a home computer.



"Only eleven shopping days to Christmas" and 2 per cent own racenoshes. To qualify for a Gold Card you have to earn at least £25,000 a year, but the averaging income among Amex's Gold Card members in Britain is more like £39,000.

Holiday tax

Top performing salesmen who receive a free holiday when reaching a target will have to pay tax on these benefits, according to accountants Deardon Farrow.

But the Inland Revenue has recently introduced a voluntary scheme under which providers of non-cash awards, whether to their own employees or the employees of a third party, will be able to pay the basic rate tax liability on the grossed up value of the award on behalf of the individual. Enquiries should be sent to Inland Revenue Incentive Valuation Unit, 27 Broadwick Street, London W1B 2AE. Tel: 01-734 1896.

Fixed income offer

A guaranteed income account paying 8.25 per cent net of basic rate tax is available from Chase de Vere Investments. The account guarantees to pay a fixed 8.25 per cent over the two-year period, during which you have to leave your money untouched. Some building societies may currently be paying higher rates than this but, of

course, the return is not fixed and will vary depending on how interest rates move. Details are available from Chase de Vere Investments, 24 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3ED.

Repairs warning

Council house tenants who arrange to have their own repairs carried out, rather than waiting for the council to do them, could end up paying the bill, according to the National Consumer Council. Commenting on the Department of the Environment's draft "Right to Repair" regulations, the NCC expressed concern that the procedures are so complex that most tenants will not be able to make head nor tail of them.

Some tenants could lose money at the hands of unscrupulous builders who offer to do the paperwork as well as repairs. And if the paperwork is not sent in and approved by the local council, tenants will have to bear the brunt of the costs.

The regulations under the Housing and Building Control Act 1984 would give council tenants the right to have repairs

costing between £20 and £200 carried out by themselves or builder, at their local council's expense - provided the council agrees first.

Pensions protest

Company clients of Sedgwick, the benefit consultants, are none too keen on the government's proposals for portable pensions. Sedgwick sent a questionnaire to all its corporate customers and the general feeling was that their employees would be vulnerable to hard sell pension salesmen. "The Government is giving glibble members the freedom to cut their own throats" was the response from one Sedgwick client.

A recurrent theme for comment was that younger members in particular might be misled into acting against their best interests by exaggerated claims for personal pension plans.

Meanwhile the giant Prudential is not very enthusiastic about the Government's proposals either. It has produced a booklet, *The Pru's View of Portable Pensions*, which is available free on Teledata 01-200 0200 or from the Pru, Freeport London EC1B 1PD.

SPORT

A friendly offer for youth year

Sports club fund raisers are being treated into financial salesmen by a canny scheme launched this week by GT Management to mark the International Year of Youth which dawn next year.

Sports clubs will be allowed to put £20 into their coffers for every GT Sports Bond that is sold. The bond is invested through the New Life Friendly Society in GT's International Fund and a building society and qualifies for all the tax privileges on offer through a friendly society.

In the last Budget the Chancellor abolished life insurance premium relief and cut the maximum contribution to a friendly society to £100 a year or £9 a month. But he also scrapped the restriction that only married people or those with children could take out a friendly society policy.

GT has halved the normal commission from £40 to £20 to cover the extra costs involved in selling through sports clubs rather than established financial intermediaries.

Nir Dick Jeep, chairman of the Sports Council, said: "I will be disappointed if even in the first year of promotion we do not raise £1m - very small beer from the total numbers that take part in sports".

Vivien Goldsmith

INVESTMENT

Beware selling your Telecom shares before they arrive

No one expected British Telecom shares to rise by almost 100 per cent on the initial investment. The best estimates had expected a price of about 80p although most experts had provided between 60p and 70p as a starting price.

So what should private investors do? Some people will have bought shares to sell quickly whatever the price; others will have bought them to hold on to whatever the price. But many, seeing these unexpected potential gains, must be wavering.

As one stock broker put it: "Who can argue with a profit of 70 per cent or more? You hardly see that sort of increase every week." By selling now you forgo the vouchers or bonus shares attached to the issue but you also avoid having to pay the next two instalments of the purchase price.

There are, of course, still strong arguments for hanging on and taking your vouchers at least before selling.

The highest yield on the vouchers can be gained only by having the exact amount of shares. A holder of 600 will get vouchers for only 400. The extra 200 shares are simply diluting his yield and are probably best sold.

Shareholders who decide to sell their holdings early should bear in mind at least two things. The letters of allocation telling each shareholder exactly how many shares he has to sell will be dropping through letter boxes next week. As soon as they do, there is almost certain to be a rush of people hoping to take advantage of the high price of Telecom shares by getting rid of their holdings.

Brokers expect this to lead to a sharp fall in the share price next week. This weakness, however, may not last. The large institutions, such as pension funds and insurance companies, are still eager to buy Telecom shares and after the rush of selling their continued buying activity is likely to push the price back up again.

So if the share price takes the predicted tumble, wise investors should delay selling their shares until the market stabilizes.

The other consideration concerns the allocation letter. These are not being sent out until Monday, so Tuesday is the earliest anyone is likely to receive one. If you sell your shares before you receive the letter and your allocation you could run into trouble. You may have been one of the applications which was completed incorrectly.

If you sell more shares than you actually receive (and you may get none at all) you will

almost certainly have to buy back the excess at the current market price. So if the price has risen between the time of the sale and the time you find you have to buy them back you will end up with a net loss.

Many investors are likely to find that they cannot sell their shares without an allocation letter. Almost all stock brokers, including most of those mentioned in the prospectus, will not sell the shares of unknown clients without seeing the allocation letter first.

This is normal precaution but means that unless you already have dealings with a broker you will probably have to wait for your letter.

The alternative to brokers are the banks. Your bank may well not insist on seeing the allocation letter since they will already know you through your bank account. But it is hard to generalize. Lloyds Bank, for example, is leaving the decision up to each branch manager.

Since the scaling down of allocations has meant that many people have ended up with smaller holdings than they expected, many sales will be for quite small amounts. But the commission rates paid to brokers or banks is unlikely to vary much whether you are selling 200 or 600 shares.

The cheapest dealing rates, offered by the brokers named in the prospectus but also by others, is a flat £7 fee on sales of 200 or 400 shares. Above this they are likely to start charging 1.65 per cent of the sale proceeds. Some brokers may charge a higher minimum, often about £10, but will extend this to amounts of 500 or 600 shares.

If you are selling through a bank, the charge will be the same since the bank simply splits the commission with the broker. It will probably not charge a handling fee. It is worth checking with the bank before selling, to find out what the fees of its broker are.

Normally, dealing in such small amounts of shares is extremely uneconomical because of the broking fees you have to pay, but if the Telecom share price holds at present levels, £7 will not be much to pay in comparison with profit you would get on even 100 shares.

Once the shares have started to trade on the stock market you might want to "stag" them - sell within a few days if the price rises to a premium. BT provides a list of brokers who are willing to deal in the shares at special rates.

Richard Thomson

SAVINGS

The small investor's money at risk

More than £1 million of investors' money is at risk - frozen by the Official Receiver - because of a company search carried out on Eastcheap. The Bank official confirmed that Eastcheap was a licensed deposit taker and the search came up with nothing, so I thought my money was safe. I put the money on deposit on the advice of my mortgage broker.

"I wanted to get the best return possible before I used the cash to buy another house. What I didn't know was that on August 17 Eastcheap surren-

dered its licence. I feel that I ought to have been informed of this. On October 2 I gave one month's notice of withdrawal of my money, as required, but when I went to pick it up on November 2, I was told I couldn't have it because the official receiver was dealing with things."

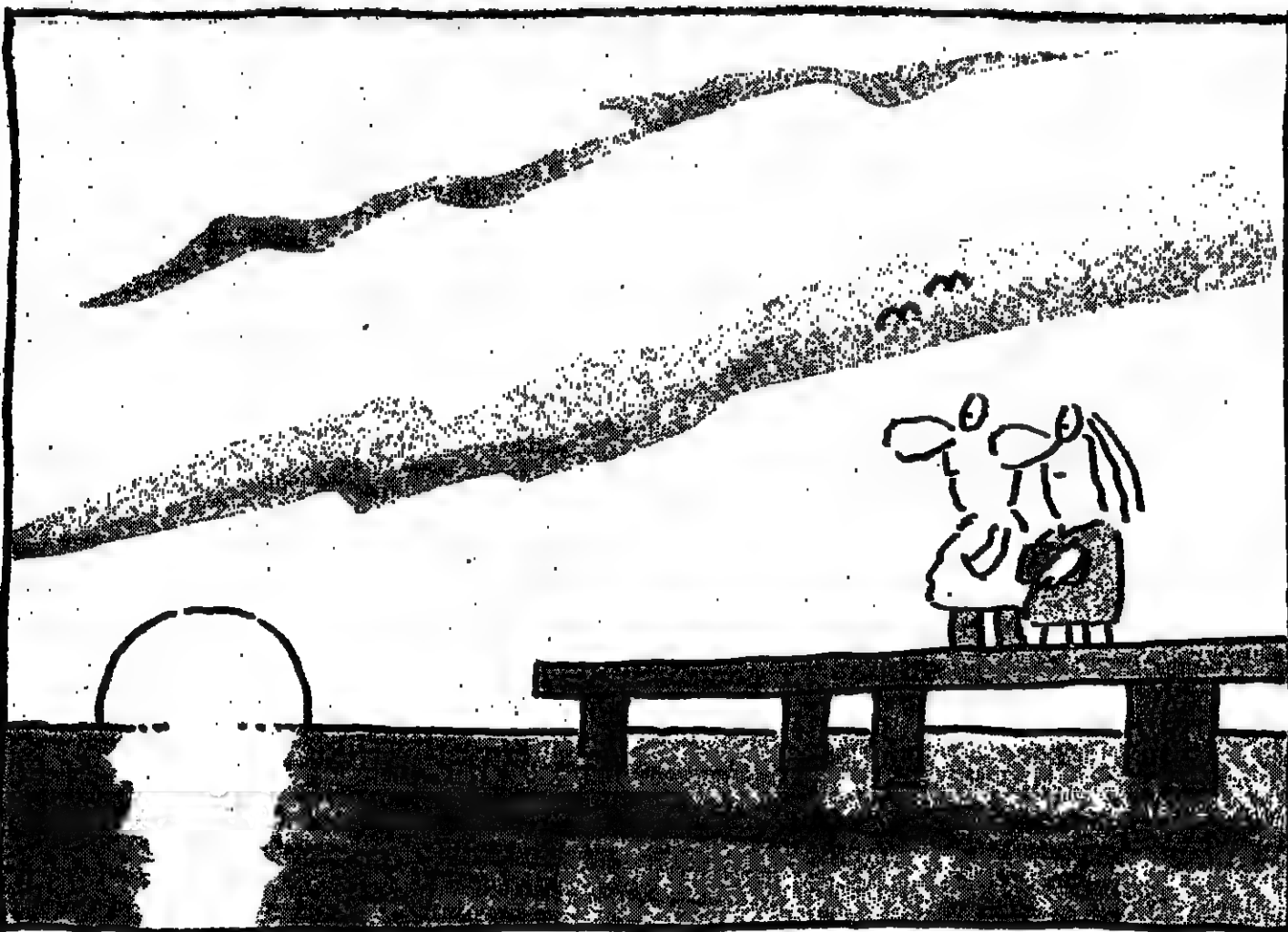
The official receiver was called in by the Bank of England, using its powers under the 1979 Banking Act.

Mr Philion was under the impression that, provided Eastcheap was a licensed deposit taker, in the event of collapse he would be reimbursed in full. But the 1979 Banking Act only give compensation of 75 per cent of any deposit up to a maximum of £10,000, so the most Mr Philion will receive from that quarter will be £7,500.

Depositors should have a clearer view on December 17 when there is a hearing in the High Court and a decision will be made on whether to go ahead and liquidate Eastcheap. "It is certainly hoped that the Bank of England moved in sufficient time to safeguard the interests of depositors", a Bank official said.

But, licensed deposit takers which offer higher interest rates to investors are often forced to lend to less than A1 credit risks, as these are the only borrowers prepared to pay over the odds for their money. For this reason, it might not be possible to round up all depositors' cash.

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Which company showed an outstanding investment performance?

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America proves a poor home for investors

Interest rates came down on both sides of the Atlantic last month. The big question now, in view of Wall Street's influence on other world stock markets, is whether the lower levels will hold.

The answer to that very much depends on what President Reagan plans to do about his massive budget deficit. Cuts on social spending and other welfare benefits do not seem likely with a Democratic-dominated Congress.

So will the President cut his main item of budget proposals which go to Congress in January. Until then Wall Street will be hostage to rumour and uncertainty, which is not good news for the stock market.

The American equity market, then, looks likely to end the year on a cautious note. It has been a dismal investment home for a lot of unit trust investors recently. Only two funds, Royal London American Growth and S & W American have matched the 20.7 per cent gain of the Standard & Poor's Composite index, after allowing for currency adjustments over the past twelve months.

More than half of the US specialist trusts have not managed a gain. And some investors have been left nursing a sizeable loss. Anyone backing N. M. Rothschild's New Court America over the past year has

*Current value of £100 invested over 11 months to December 1, 1984

Unit trust	£
Fidelity Japan	150.6
Manulife High Income	144.9
Key Equity and General	140.8
Govett Japan Growth	140.7
S & P Japan Smaller Cos	140.0
Oppenheimer Income & Growth	138.0
Abbey Japan	137.9
Wardley Income	136.5
M & G Midland & General	136.4
Barrington High Yield	136.2

*Offer to offer - net income reinvested
Source: Planned Savings Magazine

seen an offer price fall of nearly 19 per cent and investors in Aitken Hume's American Technology Fund are more than 25 per cent worse off.

On this side of the Atlantic, lower interest rates were a welcome fillip to a market keyed up to the British Telecom flotation. The FT Actuaries All-Share index added a further 3 per cent over the month.

Certainly Britain over the last year has been a more rewarding investment than the US for many unit trust managers and investors. Top performers in the home market, for example, Target Special Situations predominantly a domestic fund, and Manulife High Income have

almost doubled the gain of the All Share index.

Well over 40 per cent of British invested trusts have outpaced the index, only a handful of funds, Arbutnot Smaller Companies, Buckmaster Smaller Companies, Brianna Special Market Situations and the 3 i's & Target Smaller Companies record a fall.

Of the leading markets, Japan has proved the best performer.

The Tokyo New Stock Exchange index ended last month at another new peak. Fidelity Japan has been the clear winner in the sector over the past year.

Mike Hockings

CHARGE CARDS

Earning a 'divi' from Diners

Diners Club, the charge card company, is introducing a system of incentives for its customers.

The company gives you a personal monthly spending target, based on the average monthly amount you spent with your card the year before. For every month in which you spend up to your monthly target you get 10 dividends. And for every £25 you spend over the target you get a further five dividends.

So what do you get? The goods available range from video recorders and cameras to discounts on holidays and magazine subscriptions. And if you reach a six-month target you are automatically entered in a competition which has prizes including a Fiat Strada and first-class flights to Hong Kong.

But the scheme has two big drawbacks.

The first is that it could take years or excessive expenditure to accumulate enough dividends to "buy" many of the items.

This is aggravated by the fact that your monthly target depends on your spending record. So if you spend more, encouraged by the gifts on offer, your target will be raised for the following year. You will therefore have to spend more to get the same number of dividends as the year before.

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BASKETBALL

Solent play
on under
shadow of
closure

By Nicholas Harling

Springs Solent Stars, the South Coast club facing liquidation, say they will go ahead with today's first division match at Leicester, despite speculation to the contrary. Last night's training at Flemington Park, their home court at Eastleigh, was going ahead as planned and Harry Smith, the club's chairman, confirmed that the players would be travelling to the Midlands today.

Smith is still waiting for the £7,000 he claims his club is owed by the English Basketball Association, as reward for Solent's club triumph last January, prize-money that he insists was promised in a letter from the EBBA dated September 28, 1983. Mr. Welch, the EBBA administrator, said the money was paid, as agreed, to Basket Ball Marketing Ltd, who look after the club's interests, for them to distribute.

Smith, a former B.M.I. director, asked yesterday's press to really think that we would agree to share our prize-money with the likes of Bolton (the bottom club) or any of the other clubs. Smith said it was out of the question that Solent would continue under the guise of a newly formed company in the event of their being wound up on December 19.

Contrails Manchester Giants, one of four clubs still hoping to take Solent's place, probably squandered their chance of appearing in the final at the Albert Hall on January 7 when their 13-point lead was wiped out in the last 12 minutes of the first leg of the semi-final with King's College at Atricham on Thursday.

Exhausted ultimately took its toll of Manchester, who lost 98-97, a slump that baffled their coach, Tom Becker. A string of sick, dazzling moves, culminating in accurate shooting from Robinson, Brookings and Gardner, had put Manchester in total control before they lost their way. Becker said: "We played like dogs. We died on our feet."

Two of Becker's squad, Dan Lloyd and Gardner, had spent most of the previous two weeks with England and the club's outstanding American, Brookings, had only recently returned from there, where his father had been ill. "What they had all been doing while they were away I don't know," Becker said. "I know big emotional games like that burn the energy more but whether that was the reason I can't say."

ATHLETICS

Hutchings
to face
mass start

By Nicholas Harling

The principal opposition to Nancy Hutchings (above) in the Nancy International race tomorrow, will be the massed start, which caused him to come second last year, and Julian Goster and David Lewis, the last two Britons to beat Hutchings in a cross-country race (Pat Butcher writes).

Goster and Lewis beat Hutchings in Edinburgh, Spain, in January, 1983, since when Hutchings has gone on to win the English championship and finish second in the world championships this year. But he suffered a curious setback in this same race last year. Unlike most Continental events, Nancy is not an elite race, as occasionally happens with a large field, competitors edged forward and set everyone off running before the gun.

"I was 200 metres ahead before I'd even run a step," Hutchings said yesterday before leaving for France. But he got up as far as fifth place, the only blip on his season's record before New York, when he had called off his first practice in Portugal, in the world championship.

Apart from Goster and Lewis, the most serious opposition for Hutchings will come from the English Peter Danneberg and Vincent Rousseau.

IN BRIEF

Senna laid
low by
paralysis

By Nicholas Harling

Sao Paulo (AFP) — Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian formula one driver, has called off his first practice with his new team, Lotus, because of a paralysis which has affected part of his face for more than a month. Senna was due to have joined Lotus engineers at the Le Castellet circuit in southern France from December 12 to 17 but doctors have forbidden him to drive.

GOLF: The PGA Club Professionals' championship will be sponsored for the next three years by the Wilson sports goods company. Next year's tournament will be at the Belfry, Sutton Coldfield from August 7-10 with prize money raised from £18,000 to £20,000.

ATHLETICS: Ade Mafe, the sprinter, has been named international newcomer of the year at the annual dinner of the Sports Writers' Association in London. The 18-year-old from Hounslow reached the Olympic 200 metres final in Los Angeles. Steve Jones, of Wales, who won a new world best time when winning the Chicago marathon in October, took a new dawn in the Guinness Cup for a "superlative" performance.

SHOW JUMPING: More than £63,000 prize money will be on offer at the thirteenth Olympia championships which start next Thursday. Thirteen overseas teams compete against the 24-strong British contingent.

RACING

Wayward Lad
to turn the
tables on Gold
Cup hero

By Nicholas Harling

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Chances missed in easy victory may be regretted later

From Sydney Friskin, Karachi

Great Britain 1 Spain 1

Great Britain, as expected, easily defeated Spain here yesterday and made a heartening start to the six-nations tournament for the champions trophy. Medal prospects rest heavily on today's match against Australia, who were not too impressive while defeating the Netherlands 2-0 later in the day.

Britain, however, should have scored at least two more goals - although they had one disallowed. The late goal in the conceded minute, in the end, proved costly in a round-robin tournament as Spain's weaknesses continue to be exploited. They were unimaginative in attack and vulnerable in defence.

Spain's approach was at the start as sharp as the bright morning sun. Six minutes of eager striving led to a short corner which Cauter converted with a superb hit. Spain's immediate response was a short corner which called upon Taylor to rush out and make the first of his three saves in the match.

From a scramble which followed Britain's third short corner in the thirteenth minute, Bhauru pushed the ball into goal. Then an attack, nicely launched on the left by Duthie, compensated Britain after the ball had run out of play.

Spain's 16-yard free hit was snapped up by Leman who set the machine working again and Kerly, putting himself in high gear, landed a fierce shot on the target just before half time.

More joy was to follow four minutes after the interval when Duthie came in along the line

Zurbriggen heads the rest of the world

Puy Saint-Vincent, France (Reuters)

Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland scored a commanding victory in the men's World Cup super-giant slalom here yesterday. Zurbriggen, the defending overall World Cup champion, recorded a 43.89sec to win by the wide margin of nearly a second from Marc Girardelli.

Girardelli, an Austrian who races for Luxembourg, was second through the 36-gate piste, in 1:44.80 and Thomas Burger of Switzerland third in 1:45.10 on a cold, clear day with good snow conditions. Girardelli, who won the opening slalom of the men's World Cup season in Sestriere, Italy, last Sunday, said he lost time by misjudging some of the turns on the 1.968 metre track.

It was the second World Cup victory for Zurbriggen here in two days, following the women's downhill win by Zoe Haas.

The race provided a first World Cup outing of the season for the Olympic downhill champion, Bill Johnson of the United States, and for several other downhillers, who were denied their scheduled specialty this week because of a lack of snow in Val d'Iser.

Results: 1. Zurbriggen (Swiss) 1m 43.89sec; 2. Girardelli (Lux) 1:44.80; 3. Burger (Swiss) 1:45.10; 4. Johnson (USA) 1:45.72; 5. P. R. P. (Aust) 1:46.12; 6. P. R. P. (Aust) 1:46.12; 7. P. R. P. (Aust) 1:46.12; 8. P. R. P. (Aust) 1:46.12; 9. P. R. P. (Aust) 1:46.12; 10. P. R. P. (Aust) 1:46.12.

After the Dutch had failed to convert a short corner in the 56th minute the Australians broke away and Walsh put them ahead. Eight minutes later Walsh picked up a centre to score again.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements published in this section are at the discretion of the editor. They should be sent to the editor, The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. They should be sent to the editor, The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. They should be sent to the editor, The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

BIRTHS

BUNTON On Dec 3rd at Houston Texas to Jane Jane (Carmel) and John (Carmel) Bunton. A son, John (Carmel) Bunton. A son, John (Carmel) Bunton. A son, John (Carmel) Bunton.

DEATHS

BROWN Suddenly on Wednesday 12th December 1984 at his home, 12, The Grange, Bournemouth, Dorset, a son of Mr and Mrs J. Brown. Aged 68 years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOK PUBLISHER

Invites authors to send manuscripts for publication on a royalty basis. All categories considered including poetry and new authors are welcome.

Martin Books Ltd
Bristol, Devon EX3 5EA
Tel: Bristol (0271) 810450

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BROWN Suddenly on Wednesday 12th December 1984 at his home, 12, The Grange, Bournemouth, Dorset, a son of Mr and Mrs J. Brown. Aged 68 years.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

HOPKINSON of 800 Chichester Road, Southsea, Hants. SO40 2AA. Tel: 0703 555555. We have a large stock of musical instruments including pianos, organs, and other instruments.

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WEEKEND FIXTURES

First division	Second division
Luton Town v Aston Villa	Birmingham v Middlesbrough
Norwich City v West Ham United	Blackburn v Sheffield United
Nottingham Forest v Manchester United	Brighton v Grimsby Town
QPR v Everton	Cardiff City v Walsley
Sheffield Wednesday v Chelsea	Cardiff City v Walsley
Southampton v Arsenal	Cardiff City v Walsley
Stoke City v Ipswich Town	Cardiff City v Walsley
Sunderland v Leicester City	Cardiff City v Walsley
Tottenham v Newcastle United	Cardiff City v Walsley
West Bromwich v Watford	Cardiff City v Walsley

Scottish Cup, first round

Berwick v Albion Rovers	Dunfermline v East Stirling
Queen of South v Arbroath	Stenhousemuir v Whitehill W
Stirling Albion v Falkirk	Stranraer v Gairn Fairdean

Scottish premier division

Aberdeen v Celtic	Dundee v Dundee United
Dundee v Dundee United	Hibernian v St Mirren
Hibernian v St Mirren	Rangers v Hearts

Scottish first division

Ayr United v Clydebank	East Fife v Forfar Athletic
Falkirk v Brechin City	Kilmarnock v Meadowbank
Motherwell v Airdrieonians	St Johnstone v Clyde

RUGBY UNION

WELSH CUP

Cardiff v Swansea	Cardiff v Swansea
Cardiff v Swansea	Cardiff v Swansea

RUGBY UNION

WELSH CUP

Cardiff v Swansea	Cardiff v Swansea
Cardiff v Swansea	Cardiff v Swansea

RUGBY UNION

WELSH CUP

Cardiff v Swansea	Cardiff v Swansea
Cardiff v Swansea	Cardiff v Swansea

FOOTBALL

First division

Luton Town v Aston Villa	Norwich City v West Ham United
Nottingham Forest v Manchester United	QPR v Everton
Sheffield Wednesday v Chelsea	Southampton v Arsenal
Stoke City v Ipswich Town	Sunderland v Leicester City
Tottenham v Newcastle United	West Bromwich v Watford

FOOTBALL

Second division

Birmingham v Middlesbrough	Blackburn v Sheffield United
Brighton v Grimsby Town	Cardiff City v Walsley
Cardiff City v Walsley	Cardiff City v Walsley

FOOTBALL

Third division

Newport County v Rotherham	Southend v Crewe Alexandra
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FOOTBALL

Fourth division

GOLLE LEAGUE: Bury v Kidderminster	GOLLE LEAGUE: Bury v Kidderminster
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FOOTBALL

FOURTH DIVISION

GOLLE LEAGUE: Bury v Kidderminster	GOLLE LEAGUE: Bury v Kidderminster
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Sunday

- am

ITV/LONDON

CHANNEL 4

CHANNEL 4

The Ebony Tower. John
Hill's book (ITV, 9.30 pm)

CHANNEL 4

05 **Utopia Limited.** Sandra
Nadoolo reports on the World
Health Organisation's efforts in
Peru (7).

09 **Irish Angle.** How the Ballykelly
community has recovered in the
two years since 17 people
lost their lives in a bomb
explosion at the Drop in Well
public house.

10 **Film: New Orleans* (1947)**
starring Dorothy Patrick and
Arturo De Cordova. A musical
story of how a classical singer
found love in the world of jazz.
Directed by Arthur Lubin.

14 **Cartoon.** The wonderful Mr
Magoo in *Hotsy Footsy*.

15 **Six Centuries of Versa.** The
final programme of the series
includes works by Dylan
Thomas.

15 **Book Four** presented by
Hermione Lee. Humphrey
Carpenter reviews Tom
Sharpe's *Wilt on High*.
Margaret Forster has chosen
The Glamour, by Christopher
Priest, and Gillian Reynolds
comments on Breitenbach's
fictionalised autobiography, *The True
Confessions of an Albino
Terrorist*.

15 **Karen Armstrong** talks to
Father Bill Kirkpatrick, an ex-
psychiatric nurse, who now
runs *Reading Out*, a listening
and counselling service in
Earls Court.

15 **News summary** and weather
followed by **The Business
Programme**. Why are so many
South African companies keen
to invest in Britain? and an
interview with British Oxygen
Corporation's Dick Giordano -
Britain's highest paid
Industrialist.

00 **American Football.** Highlights
of the game between Los
Angeles Raiders and the
Miami Dolphins.

15 **The Dismissal.** Episode five of
the six-part dramatisation of
the events that led to the
dismissal in Australia of the
Gough Whitlam government.

15 **South Seas Voyages.** Krov and
Ann Menuhin with their baby
son Aaron leave the Vauatu
archipelago and make for the
eastern Solomon Islands.

15 **People to People** presents
The Last Post run. Donald
McNair races the steps of
Big John the Post, one of the
last post runners.

00 **Film: State Secret* (1950)**
starring Douglas Fairbanks Jr

**Against God: C
's inquiry into
and character**

Radio 3

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

starts 12.55pm Today's
South West Link. 11.00 A Sense of the

S As London except; 9.25 Action Line, 9.30-10.00 Alan Amt., 9.30-10.00 News, 10.00 Jan. 6-12.00 Film Focus, 1.00 pm Jan. 6-1.30-2.30 Horrid Henry, 2.30 Marmalade, 4.30-5.30 The Adventurer, 5.30-6.30 The Human Factor, 12.30 am parody, close.

V W EST As London except; 9.25am The House of the Future, 9.30 The Victory of Professor McGurk, 9.30 Wilky Winkles, 10.00 Rugby Union, 10.30 Sing Winks, 5.30-6.30 Magnum, Monday Weather, close.

V WALES As MTV West except; 1.00pm-1.30 Stress.

JANADA As London except starts 9.25am-10.00 is your right Christmas special, 10-12.00 This is your night Christmas special, 1.00pm-2.00 The Champions, 6.30 The Love Boat, 12.30am redown.

BBC plans public licence increase

By David Hewson

The BBC is to make an unprecedented appeal for support from television viewers for an increase in its licence fee, at the risk of offending the Home Office.

Corporation officials are planning a campaign to explain the BBC's case for a rise in the licence from its present £46 to about the £67 mark. It will probably begin early next year, after the delivery of an independent report on the Corporation's efficiency ordered by the Home Secretary, though it is unclear whether the report will be published.

The idea of a BBC public campaign on the licence fee is unlikely to be popular with the Home Office. Past licence fee increases have tended to be handled out of the public gaze, and in 1978 political controversy was sparked when the BBC revealed its spending requirements in a newspaper interview.

The Corporation delivered its case for a new licence fee to the Home Office two weeks ago, and wants to allow a decent interval to elapse before the campaign goes public.

The Corporation's chairman, Mr Stuart Young, is particularly keen to see the BBC make its case to the public, and believes that it can argue forcefully that its new demands represent good value for viewers.

A number of MPs are expected to criticize such a move, however, seeing it as a break with the traditional relationship between the Corporation and Parliament.

Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State at the Home Office, refused to divulge the details of the BBC's licence fee request yesterday. In a written reply, he said that the Home Secretary would not disclose details or the precise way in which he would examine the issue.

A settlement of the licence fee issue is unlikely until close to March 31, when the present settlement expires. It is thought highly unlikely that the Government will accede to pressure to force the BBC to raise some of its funds from advertising in the present licence fee agreement.

One possibility may be the creation of an inquiry into alternative methods of paying for the Corporation.

Threat to monopoly on TV programme listings

By a Staff Reporter

The Office of Fair Trading is expected to recommend next week an end to the Radio Times and TV Times monopoly on publishing television programme details.

The move follows a nine-month investigation by the OFT into the lucrative copyright hold on programme listings, which is vigorously enforced by the BBC, through Radio Times, and the TV companies, which own TV Times.

Evidence was taken from a number of private publishers who are eager to print independent television magazines. They say that Britain is probably the only country in the world where a consumer must buy two magazines to get programme details for a week's television viewing.

If the OFT report concludes

that the monopoly is against the public interest, and this view is supported by the Government, the action will end the biggest money-spinning publishing monopoly in the country.

Radio Times and TV Times are the two most popular magazines in Britain, with a total circulation of nearly 6.5 million. But their critics claim that much of their popularity stems from the copyright restrictions.

Newspapers can run full listings for only a day a week, except at weekends when they are allowed two days of programmes. Magazines, on the other hand, can provide only selective details of forthcoming programmes.

It is unlikely that the OFT report will have an immediate impact on the monopoly.

Paras: The Army Photograph of the Year, taken on patrol in Belize in July 1983, by Sergeant James Patrick Gallacher. The judges were Paddy Hicks (picture editor, Press Association); Terry Fincher (freelance photographer); and Brian Harris (photographer, The Times).

Carbide chief must flee India

Continued from page 1

The Ministry of External Affairs, but he was allowed to leave Delhi Airport with US Embassy officials. Madhya Pradesh intelligence officers accompanied him to Delhi.

Mr Arjun Singh, the state Chief Minister, who ordered the arrests, said that on the basis of available facts "each one of them had criminal liability".

He added: "This government cannot remain a helpless spectator to the tragedy, and it knows its duty towards thousands of innocent citizens whose lives have been so cruelly and traumatically affected by cruel and wanton negligence on

the part of the Union Carbide management."

"This will be done because his presence might provoke strong passions against him, and because we do not consider his presence in this country desirable", the spokesman, Mr Sudip Banerjee, said.

Those arrested were held in a Bhopal rest house and charged, according to the United News of India news agency, under Section 304 (A) of the Indian penal code for causing death by negligence. A court can use its discretion to release the accused on bail.

It seems that the Madhya Pradesh government decided to arrest Mr Anderson and the others on Thursday, but the orders were secret in case the group should decide to stay away from Bhopal.

United News of India said from Bhopal that the vent gas scrubber at the pesticide plant was under repair when the highly toxic methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas leaked from storage tanks early on Monday, killing more than 2,000 people and affecting another 100,000.

● WASHINGTON: The arrest of Mr Anderson came as a surprise, an official at the company's headquarters in Danbury, Connecticut, said (Mohsin Ali writes).

Carbide can pay, Anderson profile, page 4

NUM receiver confirmed

Continued from page 1

That could not take place until next year, at the earliest.

Mr Justice Davies based his judgement on five points. First, that the union officials had sought to "frustrate" the sequestrators by sending the money abroad and had shown no willingness to repatriate it. Secondly, that the NUM's counsel had been unable to give an assurance that in future the three officials would abide by court orders.

His third point was that while taking full account of Mr Scargill's assertion that the officials were mere nominees, acting on instructions from the union's executive committee

and national delegate conference, rule 22 of its constitution said they could only carry out lawful instructions.

The fourth reason for the order, he said, was that the officials' refusal to promise to obey future court orders suggested that their future actions could bring about further depletions of union funds through fines being imposed on them.

Finally, the officials had caused the funds of the union, at least for the time being, to be unavailable for the benefit of the membership.

The NUM faces the prospect of further legal challenge from working miners next week.

Ten held in PSA bribery inquiry

By Paul Valley

Five more arrests were made yesterday in the fraud squad investigation into allegations of bribery in the Department of the Environment's Property Services Agency, which is responsible for building and maintaining the Government's £10,000 million estate.

Five civil servants were arrested at four on Thursday in police raids on their homes. Yesterday five more men were arrested and taken to Rochester Row police station in London to be questioned on allegations that civil servants had received large cash payments, free home improvements, and holidays in luxury hotels in Miami and casinos in Las Vegas.

Four of the 10 men are building contractors, one is an official of the Inner London Education Authority, four are serving officers of the Property Services Agency and the other is a retired PSA official.

Further arrests are likely next week, Det Chief Insp Richard Botwright, who is leading the inquiry, said yesterday that charges would not be made until the investigation was complete and a file had been passed to the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Attorney General.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Hetherington, joined the investigation after allegations that civil servants awarded lucrative government contracts to private contractors who offered "perks". The inquiry is being conducted by the fraud squad's public sector corruption unit.

Customs strike draws shoppers

Thousands of bargain hunters from the Irish Republic yesterday took advantage of a 24-hour strike by customs officers to buy goods in the North, with virtually no risk of being caught smuggling.

Customs checkpoints along the 300-mile border were unmanned because of a dispute over allowances. Senior officials not on strike operated mobile patrols.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions

Room for Thought, works by Hilary Lan. Ferns Art Gallery, Queens Victoria Square, Hants Mon.

Solution of Puzzle No 16,600

Across: 1. ... 2. ... 3. ... 4. ... 5. ... 6. ... 7. ... 8. ... 9. ... 10. ... 11. ... 12. ... 13. ... 14. ... 15. ... 16. ... 17. ... 18. ... 19. ... 20. ... 21. ... 22. ... 23. ... 24. ... 25. ... 26. ... 27. ... 28. ... 29. ... 30. ... 31. ... 32. ... 33. ... 34. ... 35. ... 36. ... 37. ... 38. ... 39. ... 40. ... 41. ... 42. ... 43. ... 44. ... 45. ... 46. ... 47. ... 48. ... 49. ... 50. ... 51. ... 52. ... 53. ... 54. ... 55. ... 56. ... 57. ... 58. ... 59. ... 60. ... 61. ... 62. ... 63. ... 64. ... 65. ... 66. ... 67. ... 68. ... 69. ... 70. ... 71. ... 72. ... 73. ... 74. ... 75. ... 76. ... 77. ... 78. ... 79. ... 80. ... 81. ... 82. ... 83. ... 84. ... 85. ... 86. ... 87. ... 88. ... 89. ... 90. ... 91. ... 92. ... 93. ... 94. ... 95. ... 96. ... 97. ... 98. ... 99. ... 100. ... 101. ... 102. ... 103. ... 104. ... 105. ... 106. ... 107. ... 108. ... 109. ... 110. ... 111. ... 112. ... 113. ... 114. ... 115. ... 116. ... 117. ... 118. ... 119. ... 120. ... 121. ... 122. ... 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